

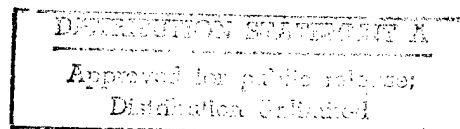
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Southeast Asia Report

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5 May 1983

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No. 1283

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AUSTRALIA

MOKHTAR INTERVIEWED ON TALKS WITH HAYDEN

BK121614 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1110 GMT 12 Apr 83

[From the "Australian Insight" program]

[Excerpt] Australia's foreign minister, Mr Bill Hayden, completed his first overseas mission at the weekend. He spent 3 days in talks with Indonesian leaders, with particular emphasis being placed on those issues which have the potential to cause serious rifts between Jakarta and the new Labor government in Canberra. The most pressing subject was the question of Australia's vote at the United Nations this year on the contentious issue of East Timor--the former Portuguese colony incorporated into Indonesia in 1976. If the Australian Government adheres to official Labor Party policy, Australia will no longer support Indonesia's action at the UN. Mr Hayden said no decision would be made on this subject until later in the year.

Another issue of concern to Indonesia and the other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] is the mooted resumption of Australian aid to Vietnam. The Labor government is known to favor the resumption of humanitarian aid to prevent Vietnam being totally dependent on the Soviet Union. However, Mr Hayden made it clear in Jakarta that no action would be taken until after consultations with ASEAN, the United States and China.

(John Lombard) asks Indonesia's foreign minister, Dr Mokhtar, to assess the value of the talks with his Australian counterpart.

[Begin Mokhtar recording] We, on our part, feel that the talks have been very usual. There are some differences but we managed to discuss them frankly, and discuss in [words indistinct] and in a friendly manner. And I hope Mr Hayden is happy with the results.

Some people say that the fact that the difference exists may further relations, or others say that the relations between Indonesia and Australia are not good. I do not agree with that view; you can have good relations and have differences. I mean, you have differences in a family, between husband and wife. The thing is, are you able to discuss them as friends, frankly. Well, the answer is, we did. And I would say it is proof of the strength of our relationship; that we were able to discuss such differences so openly and frankly, and come up with positive and constructive proposals or answers.

[Question] Do you believe that Labor's hard line policy on East Timor is now likely to be moderated in the light of the conversations that you had with Mr Hayden?

[Answer] I would not like to comment on that. I regard that entirely an Australian domestic matter. I do hope however that his talks in Jakarta may have been helpful.

[Question] Now, Mr Hayden is going to go to other ASEAN capitals to discuss this specific issue of the question of the Labor Party policy to resume humanitarian aid to Vietnam. What is your view on that policy?

[Answer] The distinction between humanitarian and other aids should be made clear. On the other hand, there is a question of timing. If I were asked about the time; now is not the time to broach such a matter as this. We are very upset by recent developments. My personal view is that, that has to be approached very carefully.

[Question] How would you like to sum up the last 3 days of talks with Mr Hayden?

[Answer] They have been frank, they have been, I think, sincere. And I hope they have been positive.

[Question] Are you surprised how much progress has been made in those talks?

[Answer] No. I expected that, because there is a lot of good will on both sides.

CSO: 4200/547

END OF NEWS BLACKOUT ON BATTLE REPORTS VIEWED

BK091119 Hong Kong AFP in English 0349 GMT 9 Apr 83

[By Khin Maung Thwin]

[Text] Rangoon, 9 Apr (AFP)--After a news blackout of more than two years, military authorities have begun to make public details of their ongoing war against communists and hilltribe insurgents in various parts of Burma.

In a move suggesting a subtle change of policy, official announcement of major and minor battles have been broadcast over the state-run radio and television. The government's six newspaper, including two in English, have given front-page coverage to the fighting.

The announcements said that government troops had 15 large-scale battles and 230 smaller clashes with insurgents, mainly communist rebels, between January 4 and April 6. Described as "open season" offensives, most of these attacks were launched against rebel enclaves throughout eastern Burma.

During this period, 99 government soldiers were reported killed as well as 286 rebels from the Burma Communist Party (BCP) and the Kachin, Shan, Karen, Pa-o and Lahu hilltribe rebel groups. Huge supplies of arms, ammunition and explosives were recovered, officials said.

The battle reports indicated a stepped-up government offensive in its more than three-decade-old war against the rebels.

But analysts said that the move by Rangoon to lift the news blackout might have been prompted by widespread rumors in recent months of fighting not only in border areas but also in central Burma, long considered rebel-free.

Rumors of clashes between government and Karen forces believed to have penetrated the foothills of the Pegu Yumas mountains have heightened fears of the rebel threat. The fears were further fueled by signs of strict security along Burma's main South-North highway and railroad.

In order to allay apprehension, the government decided to break its official silence and make the announcements on details of military operations, analysts here believe.

Government troops had already cleared away the last remnants of Burmese communists forces from their mountain stronghold on the Pegu Yumas in central Burma by early 1975.

The Beijing-backed BCP rebels found themselves mostly confined to the north-eastern region of Burma where easy access into China and cross-border logistics made them difficult to root out.

The hilltribe insurgents have been fighting for causes ranging from increased autonomy within the Burmese state to full separatism. The drug king Khun Sa claims to be a Shan nationalist, which makes it easier for him to carry on his main activity, opium trafficking.

The first of the ethnic tribals to take up arms against the government were the Karens, who began their campaign just one year after independence in 1948. They captured several major cities and nearly overran Rangoon before they were crushed and pushed out from central Burma and the delta region to the south.

Their drawn-out war against the government continues from the jungles of the Thai-Burmese border in the southeast. Mainly dependent on smuggling and black-marketeering for funds, they have found easy shelter from government assaults across the border.

However, authorities on Thursday confirmed fighting between government infantrymen and a fully armed Karen rebel force in central Burma. It said that two battles on February 18 and March 4 left five rebels dead with government losses set at five dead and 13 wounded.

In subsequent clashes with the remnants of the insurgent group, originally known to be made up of 66 Karen rebels, 24 were captured while 27 surrendered, the report said. The remaining 10 were believed to be on the run.

In a recent armed forces day speech, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister General Kyaw Htin spoke of the need to mobilize the people to eliminate all "traitorous" rebels and "destructive" elements who were "hampering the peace, progress and prosperity in Burma."

CSO: 4200/545

ARMY'S NEED FOR OVERHAUL VIEWED BY THAI PAPER

BK100646 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 10 Apr 83 p 7

[By a special correspondent from Rangoon]

[Text] On Burma's political calendar March 27 bulks big. It commemorates the opening of Burmese hostilities against the Japanese occupation in 1945 and the heroic early days of the country's armed forces.

But its significance is more than just historical. For a week and more beforehand the state-run mass media are working overtime, polishing up the lustre of the 186,000-strong defence forces or "Tatmadaw". And the emphasis is very much on the victories and virtues of today.

The lavishly-orchestrated pomp on the big day--flags, bands, crowds and serried ranks of Rangoon's white-gloved Praetorian elite--is an impressive enough pointer to the importance attached by the regime to the country's most important institution. It was the forces that brought then-General Ne Win to power in the 1962 coup; it is the forces that staff much of the civil administration today; and it is the forces that are still seen as both repository and guardian of orthodoxy along the Burmese way to socialism.

But the pageantry only goes part of the way to obscure the fact that Burma's "Tatmadaw"--essentially the army backed by a pocket air force and navy--is in urgent need of a long-overdue overhaul. It is, as one diplomat here put it bluntly, "in bad shape."

Since its founding under Japanese tutelage as the anti-British Burma Independence Army in 1941, the Burma Army has probably seen more sustained combat than any other national force around, with the sole possible exception of the People's Army of Vietnam. From the first turbulent years after independence in 1948 it has been continually at war with one or more rebel armies--communist, Karen, Shan, Kachin, Arakanese and others.

Three decades on, the strain on men, morale and machines is showing.

Numbering around 170,000, the Burma Army is organised and equipped as a tough, lightly armed, mainly foot-mobile infantry force. It is spearheaded by six crack light infantry divisions (or LIDs) of 10 battalions each.

The electronic wizardry of the modern battlefield is a world away. "There's little artillery or air support and no sophistication," said a foreign military observer. "It's a whites-of-the-eyes, bullets-and-bayonets war."

But reportedly worrying army commanders is the fact that even at this rudimentary level of combat the Burma Army is in trouble. "We are now being outgunned by the insurgents," said one well-informed Burmese source.

The reference was mainly to Rangoon's best armed and most effective rebel opposition: the 15,000-strong China-backed Burma Communist Party [BCP] operating from the northeastern border across much of the Shan plateau; and the smaller, but dogged, Karen National Liberation Army, a force of around 3,000 based in the Dawna range along the Thai border.

Increasing dissatisfaction is being voiced in army circles over the suitability and performance of the standard Burmese infantry rifle, the G-3, in service with the army since 1963, the West German-designed 7.62-millimetre automatic rifle is manufactured under licence by Burma's own Defence Services Industries [DSI] with technical assistance from the West German firm of Fritz Werner FBK.

Despite a shortening of the barrel for generally shorter Burmese troops, the obsolescent G-3 remains heavier than the U.S.-designed M-16 used widely by Karen guerrillas and has a significantly lower rate of fire. Nor is it favourably rated against the robust Chinese-supplied AK-47 assault rifle used by the BCP.

Mortars and rockets are similarly important infantry weapons giving the insurgents an upper edge. The army's two-inch and three-inch mortars are no answer to the 120mm weapons fielded by the communists. It is also hard-put to respond to the concentrations of RPG-7 rocket launchers brought to bear by BCP units.

Fast-moving Karen guerrillas, too, are generously equipped with easily portable U.S. light anti-tank weapons (LAWs), M-79 grenade-launchers, a range of mortars up to eight-inch and a sprinkling of 3.5-inch rocket-launchers.

Behind the battlefield, logistics back-up is reportedly weak across the board. Lacking any air-lift ability of its own worth mentioning, the army is often forced to rely on domestic civil aircraft to ferry troops and evacuate wounded.

Its aging fleet of British and U.S. trucks has had its working life extended up to and way beyond the years normally expected. The gap here, though, is now slowly being made up by domestically-assembled Mazda jeeps and trucks.

Where the roads end--and that means most operational areas--it's back to human power. The result is either an added burden on troops themselves or, more often, pressganging of local porters from among villages--at the expense of the crucial "hearts and minds" dimension of the conflict.

Given the massive expenditure already swallowed by defence--an estimated 30 to 35 per cent of the national budget last year--along with a perennial shortage of foreign exchange, analysts regard any comprehensive modernisation programme as beyond the government's reach.

To date foreign purchases of crew-served weapons--Burmese DSI plants turn out only small-arms and ammunition--have been sporadic and piecemeal. Israel, Yugoslavia, Sweden and the U.S. have, among others, sold military equipment to Rangoon.

Staunchly non-aligned and self-reliant Burma receives no foreign military aid.

The army's latest acquisition has been a sizable batch of Swedish Carl Gustav shoulder-fired anti-tank rocket-launchers. Replacing the obsolete U.S. 3.5-inch rocket-launcher, the new weapons are apparently intended for use against BCP bunkers that have often slowed army assaults in the northeast.

But a continuing priority is a replacement for the G-3. This and other topics related to military equipment are believed to have been prominent in talks held by Burmese leader Ne Win during his visit to West Germany last year, say diplomats.

The replacement rifle will almost certainly be assembled in Burma under an arrangement similar to the G-3. But it seems doubtful that it will be another weapon on German design, say analysts.

As seen by some observers here, however, efforts to increase the size of the army are likely to be as important as improvements in firepower. Fielding around 150 battalions at present, the army is severely over-stretched for the multiplicity of tasks confronting it.

"What they need is men, men and still more men," said one foreign military observer. "Those hills simply absorb men."

Efforts to raise the number of LIDs in the field from six to eight are bogged down, however. Attention is now largely focused on bringing existing units up to strength,

Informed sources note that many, if not most, army battalion with a full complement on paper of 777 officers and men are 30 to 40 per cent under-strength. Significant exceptions, they point out, are battalions of the Rangoon military command charged with protecting the capital--and the regime.

Sagging morale is given as a further reason for the army's often lacklustre showing against the insurgents. Casualties remain high in open-ended wars which neither government nor rebels look remotely like winning short of major diplomatic or political shifts.

Informed estimates here put recent annual casualty rates at between 500 and 600 killed and up to three times that number wounded--many of those being permanently disabled.

Mines are reckoned by analysts to account for 50 to 60 per cent of all casualties. "In the northeastern command (facing BCP base areas) especially, mines are a tremendous drain on the morale of officers and men," said one military source.

Most mines laid by the communists in the northeast are Chinese-supplied plastic, anti-personnel devices. Undetectable and designed specifically to maim rather than kill, they impose a huge burden on the army in terms of casualty evacuation from forward areas, say sources.

But Burmese troops are also falling victim to their own mines. "There is a lot of confusion," said one military observer. "We often can't tell whether the mines are ours or theirs. Battalions are pulled out and officers can't always provide maps for replacement units of where mines have been laid."

Taxing, too, is the length of time spent in the field by fighting units. On paper, units spend eight months "on" and four months "off." In fact, say sources, it often works out at nine to three. "Comparatively they lead a much tougher life than other Asian armies," said one foreign military source.

Much of the time spent in the rear is given over to political work and ideological orientation at the expense of purely military training, according to critics. Nominally at least, most troops--who sign up for five-year stints at a starting rate of 210 kyats (649 baht) a month--automatically become members of the ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party [BSPP]. Party committees function from the war office at the top down to company level.

Significantly, a good deal of stress is laid by party cadres on "consolidating national unity and solidarity"--BSPP jargon for respecting restless national minorities. But in operational areas at least, that injunction is as often as not honoured in the breach. In border zones, villagers are frequently seen--and with good reason--as supporting insurgents, and treated accordingly.

The army remains overwhelmingly Burman. The largest minority component is Karen, accounting for around five per cent of the total. Chins, Kachins, Shans and others make up roughly another five per cent between them.

But despite the designation of several infantry battalions as Chin, Kachin and Shan rifles, the minorities are carefully dispersed throughout the army as a whole. Names notwithstanding, the minority rifle battalions are predominantly Burman.

But if the Burmese soldier has his grouses, his most abiding frustration remains the way insurgents frequently evade pursuit by slipping across the country's rugged borders to safety beyond; and the way a seemingly inexhaustible supply of arms and ammunition continues to reach them in the opposite direction.

Pursuit across borders by Burmese units has been strictly ruled out by BSPP chairman Ne Win himself, say knowledgeable sources.

That frustration and the despair it breeds was well summed up by one army officer asked by a local journalist during operations against the BCP if he saw any chance of reducing the insurgents to more manageable proportions. "Certainly," came the bitter reply. "The day we can throw this country out to sea."

CSO: 4200/545

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REPORT FOR 28 MARCH-3 APRIL

[Editorial report] BK041243 Monitored Kampuchean media have reported the following agricultural development in the reporting period 28 March-3 April:

Kompong Cham: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0434 GMT on 28 March reports that by mid-March, peasants in Kang Meas District planted 1,840 hectares of dry season rice and were about to fulfill their rice production plan. The district had also planted 200 hectares of corn, 167 hectares of potato, 310 hectares of vegetables, 30 hectares of bean and 1,000 hectares of industrial crops, including tobacco, jute and peanuts. SPK at 0425 GMT on 30 March adds that by 18 March, Stoeng Trang District had cleared 416 hectares of land, which represents 70 percent of its plan. The report notes that 20 hectares of land left fallow during the Pol Pot regime have been put back into cultivation. According to Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1300 GMT on 2 April, the province collected (? 35,043,000 liters) of latex from its rubber plantation in 1982.

Kompong Chhang: Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 28 Mar reports that by 18 March, Kompong Leng District had transplanted 2,130 hectares of rice, including 300 hectares of I.R.-36 and over 740 hectares of TN [in French alphabet pronunciation] rice strains. The report adds that by 18 March, 125 hectares of rice had been harvested with a yield of more than 2 metric tons per hectare, and that over 1,413 hectares of subsidiary crops, 170 hectare, of vegetables and 718 hectares of industrial crops had also been planted. The same source at 0430 GMT on 31 March reports that 6,200 hectares of dry season rice--92 percent of the province's plan--have been planted and 1,700 hectares of I.R.-36 rice strain and 1,300 hectares of TN rice strain have been transplanted. The report also adds that 5,300 hectares of subsidiary crops and 1,800 hectares of industrial crops have been planted in the province. In a statement broadcast by Phnom Penh radio at 1300 GMT on 2 April, the head of the province's agricultural service said that in 1982, 49,898 hectares of rice were planted and 11,000 hectares of land re-claimed; there were also 44,949 oxen, 17,213 buffaloes, (? 17,586) pigs and 78,374 chicken.

Battambang: The radio reports at 0430 GMT on 28 March that during a 5 month period--up to the end of February--1,200 metric tons of fish were caught out of this year's provincial plan of 7,000 metric tons.

Kandal: According to a report carried by Phnom Penh radio at 1300 GMT on 29 March, over 300 hectares of dry season rice have been transplanted--or 89 percent of the provinces plan--and (? 656 hectares) of subsidiary crops planted. The

reports also add that there are 1,453 oxen, 24 buffaloes and over 6,400 pigs. In a report broadcast at 1300 GMT on 2 April, the radio said by 15 March peasants in the province had transplanted 31,188 hectares of rice--or (? 93 percent) of the province's plan--including 14,375 hectares of I.R.-36 rice strain. The report also says that 3,842 hectares of rice were harvested, with an average yeild of more than 2 metric tons per hectare, and that 15,000 hectares of corn, bean, water melon, bannana, tobacco and vegetables were planted.

Takeo: Phnom Penh radio at 1300 GMT on 2 April says that 2,390 hectares of rice have been transplanted by peasants in the provincial seat.

CSO: 4219/55

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REPORT FOR 4-10 APRIL

[Editorial report] BK111120 Kampuchea media have reported the following agricultural developments in the reporting period 4-10 April:

National Level: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0358 GMT on 9 April reports that, according to a recent communique of the Agriculture Ministry, by the end of March, Kampuchean peasants all over the country planted 134,000 hectares of dry season rice and 155,550 hectares of rice are planned to be grown in this dry season. In the first 20 days of March, rice was planted on more than 27,160 hectares of land. Kandal, Prey Veng and Takeo Province almost achieved their plans by planting respectively more than 34,870, 30,940 and 27,420 hectares of rice. The agronomics department of the Agriculture Ministry sent cadres to various localities to help the people to eliminate insects.

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 9 April reports on nationwide agricultural production in 1982 as follows 1,545,350 hectares of rainy season rice transplanted producing 1,787,540 metric tons of paddy or 40,000 metric tons more than last year; other crops produced were: 46,197 metric tons of corn, 60,582 metric tons of cassava, 17,112 metric tons of potato, 4,513 metric tons of peanut, 1,275 metric tons of soya bean, 3,268 metric tons of black and white sesame seeds, 169,860 metric tons of sugar cane, 223 metric tons of tobacco, 167 metric tons of cotton and 732 hectares of mulberry were planted. In 1983, there are plans to grow 1,755,000 hectares of mulberry were planted. In 1983, there are plans to grow 1,755,000 hectares of rice, 95,000 hectares of corn, 40,000 hectares of potato, 85,000 hectares of subsidiary crops and 52,000 hectares of industrial crops.

Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1431 GMT on 9 April reports that the rubber plantation service summed up its 1982 activities during a meeting held recently in Phnom Penh in the presence of trade Minister Tang Saroem. In his report presented on that occasion, The director general of the rubber plantation service, Nuch Than, said that, in 1982, the area cultivated with this industrial crop was expanded to reach 11,800 hectares, while the number of workers was increased to 10,180 people. The factory for treating latex produced 7,550 metric tons of crepe rubber during the same period. The rubber plantation service also set its future tasks which are to expand the area cultivated with rubber trees to 16,000 hectares, increase rubber production, build 250 houses for 500 workers' families, refit a health building in Chup and repair storehouses in Phnom Penh.

Kompong Chhang Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0428 GMT on 5 April reports that up to now peasants in Kompong Leng District planted 2,130 hectares of rice and achieved 100 percent of their plan for this dry season. Three hundred hectares of I.R.-36 rice strain and 740 hectares of T.N.-rice strain were planted. The district harvested 125 hectares of early rice with a yield of two metric tons per hectare. During the same period, the district also cultivated 170 hectares of corn, 70 hectares of potato, 140 hectares of asparagus bean and several hundred hectares of industrial crops. Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0432 GMT on 9 April says that up to now, Kompong Tralach District transplanted over a hundred hectares of dry season rice and hundreds of hectares of industrial and subsidiary crops were planted. Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1458 GMT on 6 April reports that, up to the beginning of April, solidarity groups of Kompong Chhnang Province planted 5,690 hectares of dry season rice and achieved 92 percent of their plan. They also grew 1,850 hectares of industrial crops and 5,390 hectares of subsidiary crops: A 68-percent increase of plan. More than 4,140 metric tons of fish were caught.

Kandal Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1458 GMT on 6 April reports that, up to the beginning of April, peasants in Kandal Province planted 31,000 hectares of dry season rice; among which there were more than 14,370 hectares of I.R. 36 rice strain, achieving 94 percent of plan. They also grew 15,000 hectares of corn, sugar cane, tobacco and other crops. At present they are harvesting more than 3,840 hectares of dry season rice.

Kampot Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0432 GMT on 9 April reports that during last year, Kamot Province produced more than 4,010 metric tons of salt.

Stung Treng Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1425 GMT on 9 April reports that, up to mid-March solidarity groups of Stung Treng Province achieved 40 percent of dry season rice production plan. Up to now, 720 metric tons of paddy were sold to the state. There are 12,500 buffalo and 40,050 oxen. During this main rice season Stung Treng Province plans to cultivate 10,000 hectares of rice and reclaim 4,000 hectares of land. Last year this province planted more than 8,840 hectares of rice, 350 hectares of industrial crops, 1,340 hectares of subsidiary crops, reclaimed more than 1,010 hectares of land and caught 990 metric tons of fish. Nine hundred cubic meters of wood for construction and 450 cubic meters of logs were produced.

Pursat Province: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 10 April reports that, during the last rainy season, over 78,000 metric tons of paddy were produced with an average yield of 1.25 metric tons per hectare, and 1,800 hectares of subsidiary crops and 446 hectares of industrial crops were planted. By 2 March, 300 hectares of dry season rice were transplanted, including 40 hectares of I.R. 36 rice strain, 950 hectares of subsidiary crops and 86 hectares of industrial crops planted and more than 5,000 hectares of land reclaimed.

Kompong Speu Province: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1432 GMT on 10 April says that, up to now 2,148 hectares of dry season rice have been transplanted. During the last main rice season, peasants in this province planted more than 67,000 hectares of rice and sold to the state 400 metric tons of paddy. There were 109,000 heads of oxen and buffalo, 43,000 pigs and 343,000 chickens and ducks. The province plans to grow 77,800 hectares of rice among which there are 2,800 hectares of dry season rice. Subsidiary crops are planned to be cultivated on 9,000 hectares of land.

KAMPUCHEA

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION REPORT FOR 11-17 APRIL

[Editorial report] BK190515 Kampuchea media have reported the following agricultural developments in the reporting period 11-17 April:

Takeo: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 11 April reports that by 31 March peasants in Takeo Province had sold over 9,660 metric tons of paddy, including 250 metric tons of IR-36 rice strain, to the state. In this dry season, the province plans to sell 2,670 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Kandal: Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 12 April notes that by the end of March, the provincial trade service bought over 4,100 metric tons of paddy from the people. This includes almost 260 metric tons of rice seeds and 1,200 metric tons of paddy returned to the state.

Koh Kong: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1439 GMT on 15 April says that peasants in Koh Kong Province are making preparations for realizing the plan to grow 9,000 hectares of main season rice. In addition to rice, they plan to grow 300 hectares of corn and 320 hectares of sugarcane, restore 3 dams and catch 2,500 metric tons of fish. They are also preparing to raise more cattle and poultry. Despite drought, in 1982 Koh Kong Province planted 7,580 hectares of rice and hundreds of hectares of subsidiary crops, raised more than 4,800 head of cattle, 4,100 hogs and thousands of poultry and caught more than 1,500 tons of fish.

Svay Rieng: Phnom Penh radio at 0430 GMT on 14 April reports that in 1982 peasants in Svay Rieng Province planted 118,400 hectares of rice and that by 8 March they had sold 16,500 metric tons of rice to the state--representing 23 percent above plan of rice sale to state. SPK at 0419 GMT on 16 April adds that by the end of March, peasants in Svay Rieng Province had transplanted 480 hectares of dry-season rice aside from planting hundreds of hectares of subsidiary crops. During the main rice growing season in 1982, peasants planted 118,420 hectares of rice, thus realizing the plan by 103 percent. This is 16,100 hectares more than the cultivation in the previous year. They also reclaimed 7,000 hectares of land in the same period. Svay Rieng Province plans to grow 120 hectares of corn and more than 300 hectares of sugarcane. The province raised 87,210 head of cattle, 70,680 hogs and thousands of poultry. In the coming production season, the solidarity groups plan to grow 122,500 hectares of rice and reclaim 17,000 hectares of land.

Battambang: SPK at 1429 GMT on 16 April reports on a meeting to sum up achievements in Battambang Province. According to the report presented at the meeting, last year Battambang Province expanded cultivable land to 304,230 hectares; collected 810 metric tons of jute, 43,420 metric tons of sugarcane, 510 metric tons of peanut; and raised 98,000 draught animals--about 12,100 head more than

in 1981. In the same period, fishing groups caught 660 metric tons of fish. Peasants sold 53,000 metric tons of paddy to the state.

Prey Veng: The news agency at 0509 GMT on 17 April notes that the solidarity groups in Prey Veng Province planted almost 31,000 hectares of dry-season rice, thus almost accomplishing the production plan. They also planted 3,090 hectares of corn, 1,530 hectares of beans and hundreds of hectares of other crops. In the last rice-planting season, peasants in Prey Veng Province planted more than 205,720 hectares of rice. This is 111 percent of the plan. They planted 3,630 hectares of corn, thousands of hectares of industrial and subsidiary crops; and reclaimed 7,470 hectares of land. They restored two pumping stations, two dams, a reservoir and various waterworks. In addition, they caught 500 metric tons of fish and 12 metric tons of prawn.

CSO: 4219/55

HENG SAMRIN GREETES AL-ASAD ON BA'TH ANNIVERSARY

BK150925 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1519 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Phnom Penh, 14 Apr (SPK)--Chairman Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the PRK, sent his warm greetings in a message to Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, on the 36th founding anniversary of the Ba'th Party.

The message says in part:

During these past years, the Syrian people under the leadership of the Ba'th Party with your excellency at the head have followed the path leading to socialism and have achieved important tasks according to the directives and resolutions of the regional conference and of the national conference.

We are convinced that, hand in hand with the states grouped within the national front of resistance, you will achieve new successes in the struggle against the Camp David plot in order to repel the aggression of the Israeli Zionists in collusion with the U.S. imperialists to establish peace and security in the Middle East and the world.

The KPRP and the Kampuchean Government and people deeply thank the Ba'th Party and the Syrian Government and people for firmly supporting our just revolutionary cause in all international forums, particularly at the seventh summit conference of the nonaligned countries in New Delhi.

We are sure that the relations of friendship and militant solidarity between our two parties, our two states and our two peoples will further develop and strengthen with each passing day.

CSO: 4219/55

BRIEFS

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO LE DUAN--Phnom Penh, 7 Apr (SPK)--Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee, sent his warm greetings in a message to Le Duan, general secretary of the VCP Central Committee, on the occasion of his 76th birthday. During these past years, it was written in the message, the valiant Vietnamese people, through their stubborn struggle, have foiled all the perfidious maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists, in collusion with the Beijing expansionist and hegemonists and other international reactionary forces, thus successfully defending national independence, freedom and socialism. The Kampuchean people are firmly convinced that under the just and enlightened leadership of the VCP, with you at the head, the valiant Vietnamese people will achieve other great successes in building the material and technical bases of socialism and in defending their socialist fatherland, and now more than ever they are energetically working to consolidate and develop the friendship, solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the PRK and the SRV and to take care of the strategic Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos alliance, the important factor for the maintenance of peace and stability in southeast Asia and the world. After noting that the Vietnamese people are carrying out their proletarian internationalist obligations in Kampuchea, which constitutes a powerful encouragement for the Kampucheans in their struggle against the enemies of all stripes, the general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee voiced his wishes for the long life of the strategic alliance of the three Indochinese countries. [Text] [BK071324 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0539 GMT 7 Apr 83]

LAO EDUCATION DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, 21 Mar (SPK)--At the invitation of the PAK Education Ministry, a delegation of the Lao Ministry of Education led by Minister Bountiam Phitsamai arrived in Phnom Penh on 21 March for an official visit to Kampuchea. It was greeted on its arrival by Education Minister Pen Navouth and other personalities. Thongpeng Souklaseng, Lao ambassador to Kampuchea, was also present. [Text] [BK220620 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1447 GMT 21 Mar 83]

SWEDISH, SWISS HEALTH AID--Phnom Penh, 22 Mar (SPK)--Recently, Phlek Phirun, chairman of the Kampuchean Red Cross, and Olof Stroh, representative of the Swedish Red Cross, signed an agreement on health cooperation for 1983 between the Kampuchean Red Cross and that of Sweden. The agreement envisages assistance in the field of surgery to Kompong Chhnang Provincial Hospital. In 1983, the Swiss Red Cross will provide surgical aid to Kompong Cham Provincial Hospital in accordance with an agreement recently signed between Phlek Phirun and Antoine Werber, representative of the Swiss Red Cross. [Text] [BK241525 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1442 GMT 22 Mar 83]

MOZAMBIQUE CONGRESS--Phnom Penh, 18 Apr (SPK)--A delegation of the KPRP led by Rong Thormmeakaisan, member of the KPRP Central Committee and secretary of the Koh Kong Provincial Party Committee, left Phnom Penh this morning for Maputo where it will attend the fourth congress of the FRELIMO party of the People's Republic of Mozambique at the invitation of this party Central Committee. It was seen off by Lim Nai, chief of cabinet of the KPRP Central Committee, and other personalities. [Text] [BK190716 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1450 GMT 18 Apr 83]

INDIAN WOMEN UNION DELEGATE--Phnom Penh, 12 Apr (SPK)--Aruna Asaf Ali, chairman of the Indian Women's Union and vice chairman of the WIDF, arrived in Phnom Penh on 11 April for an official friendship visit in Kampuchea. Men Saman, chairman of the Kampuchean Women's Association, and other personalities went to Pochentong Airport to greet the representative of Indian women. J. C. Sharma, acting charge d'affaires of India in Kampuchea, was also present. [Text] [BK121723 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0457 GMT 12 Apr 83]

BAHRAIN FRONT DELEGATION--Phnom Penh, 12 Apr (SPK)--A delegation of the Front of Bahrain led by Abdulla Alrashid, member of the leading committee in charge of external relations, arrived in Phnom Penh on 11 April for an official visit in Kampuchea. It was greeted at Pochentong Airport by Min Khin, deputy general secretary of the KUFNCD National Council, and other personalities. [Text] [BK121723 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0455 GMT 12 Apr 83]

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE--Phnom Penh, 12 Apr (SPK)--According to a report presented at a meeting of the Ministry of Communication, Posts and Transport, the posts and telecommunication service handled more than 700,000 letters in 1982. The installations of relay stations between Phnom Penh and Kompong Chhang, Krakor, Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap Provinces, and the building of a radio antenna serving Kompong Som, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng and Ho Chi Minh City were completed. [BK121723 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0445 GMT 12 Apr 83]

ENVOY IN INDIA--Phnom Penh, 26 Mar (SPK)--When he received Thean Chuni, PRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, in New Delhi on 23 March, the president of the Republic of India, Zail Singh, said India continues to provide all possible assistance to the Kampuchean people who are rebuilding their country. On behalf of the Kampuchean Government and people, Ambassador Thean Chuni expressed his gratitude to the government and people of India, in particular to the Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, for the assistance and support that India has provided to the Kampuchean people's struggle for national defense and reconstruction. Ambassador Thean Chuni also conveyed to the Indian president the best wishes of Chairman Heng Samrin and pledged to do his best to strengthen the relations of friendship and traditional cooperation between Kampuchea and India. [BK281222 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0435 GMT 26 Mar 83]

RED CROSS AID--Phnom Penh, 27 Mar (SPK)--Siem Reap-oddar Meanchey Red Cross distributed cloth, mosquito nets, and articles relating to needlework and carpentry to 4,400 families in Sot Nikom, Samraong, Siem Reap, Puok, Srei Snam and Chongkal Districts. The same kind of aid was also distributed by Battambang Red Cross to 3,294 families in Sangke, Moung Russei and Battambang Districts. [Text] [BK281222 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1437 GMT 27 Mar 83]

BORDER FIGHTING--Hanoi, 7 Apr (VNA)--Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hun Sen declared Thursday afternoon that what had happened at the Kampuchean-Thai border were regular operations by the revolutionary forces to drive away Pol Pot remnants and other Khmer traitors who are armed by reactionary circles in Bangkok on orders of Beijing and Washington. Addressing the heads of foreign missions gathered at the Foreign Ministry in Phnom Penh for a briefing Hun Sen said that Kampuchean troops strictly respected the territory of neighboring Thailand in conformity with the unchanging policy of peace, good neighborhood and friendly cooperation pursued by the Kampuchean Government. The foreign minister said that Thailand's [words indistinct] against Kampuchea and Vietnam ran counter to the trend for dialogue. Such a policy, detrimental to Thailand's own interests and to peace and stability in Southeast Asia, is doomed to failure, he stressed. [Text] [OW082154 Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT 8 Apr 83]

CSO: 4200/546

COMMENTARY ASSAILS SOVIET WARNING TO ASEAN

BK081607 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union has shown its true colors to the ASEAN countries. The warning given by the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mikhail Kapitsa, in Singapore that unless the anti-Vietnamese drive of the ASEAN nations is not stopped, [phrase as heard] the whole infrastructure of Southeast Asian nations would be eroded and that they would help, or rather their proxy--the Vietnamese, would help the insurgents in the ASEAN nations.

To someone who knows this region, the threat by Mr Kapitsa, who [words indistinct] to Vietnam of [words indistinct] attempt, as humor. As far as the communist insurgency in this part of the world is concerned, it is no secret that long before China and Vietnam came into the picture, it was the Soviet Union that had helped and encouraged the growth of insurgency in this part of the world. No amount of plastering on the part of the Soviet Union can hide that fact or the fact that they have done the same thing in Afghanistan.

The reason for the Soviet Union's belligerency appears to be to frighten the ASEAN countries to abandon their defense of the principle of the right of any nation to be free to choose the government it wants and that no other country has the right to overthrow the legitimate government however evil it may be.

The ASEAN nations have made no secret of their abhorrence of the activities of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime when it ruled in Kampuchea. Nor do they make any secret of it now. Neither have the ASEAN countries at any time denied that the only solution for the Kampuchean problem is a political one. In fact, this is what they have been stressing all the time at the United Nations and other international forums and in bilateral meetings with Vietnamese representatives. They have not and will certainly not attempt what Vietnam has done--send troops into Kampuchea to overthrow the puppet regime and station them there. If, as the Vietnamese claimed, they were called in to help the Kampuchians overthrow a hateful regime, then why are the Vietnamese troops still in there. The ASEAN nations have stressed time and again the need for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea and the holding of free elections in that country under UN supervision so that the people of the country could choose the government they want.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister, in making his threat, suggested that the ASEAN nations accept Vietnam's proposal for regional talks on the Kampuchean problem or alternatively sponsor a limited international conference involving the regional grouping with Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. He left unanswered the question as to who would represent Kampuchea.

The question is whether the current Vietnamese leadership can be trusted. As Singapore's foreign minister indicated, ASEAN could not trust the regime and cited the example of its invasion of Kampuchea in 1978--3 months after its prime minister had made a protestation of peace.

As far as the Soviet Union's threat is concerned, we are well aware that the latest incursion into Thai territory was made possible by Soviet military assistance. The question that we have to ask ourselves now is whether the threat made by Mr Kapitsa is an indication that the Soviets themselves will be doing an Afghanistan in our region instead of doing it by proxy.

CSO: 4200/548

MALAYSIA

COMMENTARY ASSAILS SRV WARNING TO ASEAN

BK071307 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In one of his most brazen remarks ever, the Vietnamese foreign minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, has been reported to have said that Vietnam would confront the ASEAN states if they rejected Vietnam's offer to hold regional talks between Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea and the ASEAN states. This warning may be a mark of the desperation of Vietnam, but it nevertheless, is consistent with its aggressive postures over the last 5 years.

The ASEAN states have repeatedly stated that they would never accept the current political picture of Kampuchea. The Kampuchean situation was the product of Vietnam's aggression against a smaller and weaker neighbor. Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea today is a military occupation of a defenseless people. Vietnam has set up its own puppet group to rule in Phnom Penh and its sheer arrogance and cheek is reflected in its demand to ASEAN to accept this Vietnamese creature.

Four times the UN General Assembly has rejected this government and has chosen to accept the credentials of the Democratic Kampuchea coalition which is based not in the capital but in the jungles of Kampuchea. With such facts speaking so loudly for themselves, does Hanoi seriously expect ASEAN to attend the conference that includes the Heng Samrin group thereby giving it recognition? Vietnam should also view the high economic and social cost of its current aggressive policies in Kampuchea. Confronting the ASEAN states and thereby creating a whole group of unfriendly neighbors would not help Vietnam to say the least.

Mr Nguyen Co Thach's threat to support the communist movements in the various ASEAN nations should also be viewed in this light. These movements have been totally defeated in the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. Thailand's indigenous movement is in the process of being wiped out. Mr Nguyen Co Thach realizes that these are essentially Maoist pro-Beijing movements and that his room for maneuver is very narrow here. The ASEAN nations do not fear a foreign threat and they fear even less the threat from domestic insurgents.

It is also deeply regrettable that Vietnam's propaganda machine has chosen to say that Vietnam has not intruded into Thai territory at all and that Vietnamese troops did not fire artillery rounds into civilian refugee camps. Both these events have been well-documented by the international press and Vietnam's lies and fabrications in this area are easily detected. The fact remains that Thai territory was violated. Vietnam's intentions to violate this border were in fact stated earlier when its deputy foreign minister, Ha Van Lau, confirmed Vietnam's intentions to pursue the resistance forces across the border into Thailand if they have to.

The attack on innocent civilian refugees was as unjustified as it was barbarous. Vietnam's actions here are no different than that of the Khmer Rouge when they were in power where the lives and future of Kampucheans counted for very little. Vietnam's military adventure and colonialistic venture into Kampuchea would continue at the expense of a further flow of Kampuchean blood. The real tragedy here is that Hanoi will fail to realize that its attempts to frighten ASEAN have failed and that its pathetic attempts to hide the true facts have also been miserable failures.

CSO: 4200/548

'NEW STRAITS TIMES' ON KAMPUCHEAN ISSUE

BK131211 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Apr 83 p 14

[Article by Zainah Anwar: "Kampuchea: The Way Ahead"]

[Text] The Vietnamese military offensive, the biggest since Hanoi's tanks rolled into Kampuchea more than four years ago, is yet another attempt by Vietnam to undercut the growing strength of the resistance forces which had developed and become better organized with the formation of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea last June.

If Hanoi cannot undermine the coalition diplomatically because of successful political and diplomatic pressure put on it by the international community, then it will turn to the battlefield to make its point.

This cannot but make things harder for talks to be held between Vietnam and ASEAN that could lead to a political solution of the Kampuchean problem.

It is imperative to ASEAN that, to get Vietnam out of Kampuchea, there must be strong resistance to the occupation not only on the ground but in the international community.

The fact that Sihanoukville, the headquarters of resistance forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Phnom Chat, a major Khmer Rouge stronghold have both been overrun by Vietnamese troops and they are now poised to attack Ban Sa Ngae, a well-organized military camp and civilian settlement that is a stronghold of the anticommunist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), must be of much concern to ASEAN.

The casualties among the civilian population along the border who hold allegiance to the resistance forces are high. But there have been no confirmed reports on the extent of casualties among the resistance forces although it is believed that most of the guerrillas are well inside Kampuchea behind Vietnamese lines.

Publicly the coalition forces and ASEAN can trumpet that the unprecedented all-out Vietnamese offensive will only make the resistance more determined to fight on, but there is little doubt that the anticommunist groups of Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Son Sann particularly, will feel the pinch of the attack in terms of morale among their troops and civilian supporters as well as in terms of the puncture in their resources for military supplies.

It may suit Vietnam to settle the Kampuchean problem militarily. But for ASEAN and its supporters, a political solution is the only way out.

The fact that the new governments in France and Australia are making noises about aid to Vietnam to dislodge it from its total dependence on the Soviets remain a worry to ASEAN.

It is ASEAN's policy that a halt in aid to Vietnam by the international community is an important part of the continuing diplomatic, political and economic pressure designed to isolate Vietnam and make it realize its follies in Kampuchea.

The on-going Sino-Soviet talks is yet another cause for worry not only to Vietnam but also to ASEAN. The ASEAN five are concerned that any rapprochement between the Chinese and the Soviets could lead to a solution to the Kampuchean problem without ASEAN participation. This would be unacceptable to ASEAN.

With Thailand in the midst of a general election, ASEAN sources said any initiative to be taken on the Kampuchean problem will have to wait until after April 18.

ASEAN remains open to the idea of exploratory talks between the five and Vietnam and Laos. But the "breakthrough" in New Delhi, when in a private meeting, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Co Thach agreed to his Malaysian counterpart Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie's suggestion that the two parties hold talks without the Heng Samrin regime, has been shot down before it got anywhere.

Some ASEAN officials blame it on Singapore Deputy Prime Minister S. Rajaratnam for spoiling the initiative by breaking the story to the press. According to a top level Wisma Putra [Foreign Ministry] source, both Tan Sri Ghazali and Mr Thach had agreed to keep the idea of talks without Heng Samrin confidential until Malaysia had consulted its ASEAN partners and Mr Thach, his Politburo.

They had also agreed that the talks could either be held openly or quietly. But Mr Rajaratnam, perhaps to pat Vietnam for its show of flexibility or to publicly hold Vietnam to its words, chose to break the news.

Henceafter, there was confusion. Mr Thach at a press conference in New Delhi was pressed on the issue and said that the question of U.S. bases in the Philippines and Indonesia's incorporation of East Timor would be subjects for discussion.

This, even though there was no mention of U.S. bases during the meeting between the two foreign ministers and Tan Sri Ghazali had dismissed Mr Thach's mention of East Timor as an issue that had nothing to do with Kampuchea and that did not affect Southeast Asian security.

Mr Thach had also wanted the talks to begin immediately in New Delhi, but according to the source, Tan Sri Ghazali said he must first consult his ASEAN colleagues.

The Thai and Filipino diplomats in New Delhi were briefed on the initiative, but the Filipinos, according to the source, failed to inform Manila about it.

Thus, Filipino Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo reacted sharply when he read the news of not only talks between ASEAN and Vietnam, but one that would include the question of U.S. bases in the Philippines.

The presumption that talks between ASEAN and Vietnam was a "negotiation for settlement" had also led many ASEAN supporters, particularly China, to denounce the idea as a Vietnamese trap.

According to Wisma Putra sources, nowhere in the meeting between Tan Sri Ghazali and Mr Thach was it implied that the talks would be a negotiation for settlement.

The sources agreed that Mr Thach might have thought that he was enticing ASEAN to the Vietnamese proposal of regional talks. Once engaged in a conference, the Vietnamese would try to protract the talks for three to four years as it knew that ASEAN alone could not settle the overriding issue of Vietnamese security.

In the meantime, said the sources, it was in the Vietnamese scheme of things that, since the concerned parties are negotiating, it would tell the United Nations not to interfere with the question of Kampuchea. Hanoi would also take this period to strengthen, consolidate, and entrench the Heng Samrin regime in Phnom Penh.

The Vietnamese may be luring ASEAN into a trap. But the sources said Tan Sri Ghazali was confident that if the initiative was taken properly, the talks would be no more than a single exercise in order to lead Vietnam to the ICK (International Conference on Kampuchea). And if this failed it was not for lack of ASEAN effort.

It was in the ASEAN scheme of things that in this one-time exercise, the Vietnamese would say it could not withdraw its forces from Kampuchea because of China's threat to its security. To this, ASEAN would respond that the only way Vietnam's security could be guaranteed is through an international conference. ASEAN alone could never negotiate with Vietnam as it could not pay the Vietnamese the price for its withdrawal.

But if Vietnam still said no to the ICK where its security and Southeast Asia's security could be guaranteed by the participating big powers, the talks were then expected to break up, with ASEAN telling the world that Vietnam had been the intransigent party, said the Wisma Putra sources.

It all sounds very pat. But the sources said it was felt that ASEAN should be able to show some movement forward in the months before the United Nations General Assembly where the credentials of the Democratic Kampuchea Government would once again be put to a vote.

"We have to act to show that there is a movement towards a solution. But if things are static, we want to show that it is not because of us," said one official.

But even after all this was cleared up and explained carefully at the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in Bangkok, no positive decision could be taken. Sources said Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila had said that his hands were tied because Thailand was under a caretaker government and any decision taken to participate in what could be perceived as protracted talks with Vietnam would not be acceptable to Thai public opinion and could affect the elections.

There is no doubt that ASEAN will continue to search for new initiatives to get Vietnam to the negotiating table. But until after the Thai general elections on April 18, ASEAN sources said the five will lie low, and is likely to pick up on any new initiative only at the annual June meeting of foreign ministers in Bangkok.

But as the officials in Kuala Lumpur stress, ASEAN is still open to the idea of exploratory talks with Vietnam that could lead to negotiations for a political settlement.

As of now, no one in ASEAN is optimistic that Vietnam would ever agree to come to the ICK. For one thing, that would mean tacit recognition of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea which is a member of the United Nations.

Knowing the Vietnamese mindblock on any idea of the ICK, there are those inside and outside ASEAN who feel that the five should look for a third alternative to the Vietnamese idea of a regional conference and the ICK.

One idea being toyed with is a limited international conference that could still meet all the ICK requirements of Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea, free elections, and security guarantee to Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

There are many who will jump at the idea that ASEAN should abandon the ICK, but as an ASEAN source said although such a conference would not be called the ICK and would not necessarily be a UN-sponsored conference, it would still be within the framework of the ICK in its objectives and it could still report its outcome to the UN.

The sources pointed out that the ASEAN foreign ministers in their joint statement in Bangkok had stated that they "reaffirmed their willingness to explore appropriate avenues to facilitate the realization of a comprehensive political settlement to the Kampuchean problem within the framework of the ICK."

One "appropriate avenue" could be an alternative international conference acceptable to both ASEAN and Vietnam and that could lead to a Vietnamese withdrawal, Kampuchean independence and a guarantee of Vietnam's and Southeast Asia security as envisaged in the ICK.

This is worth considering and the initiators would do well to, this time, get their act better coordinated before they spring a surprise on their uninitiated friends and find they have given birth to a stillborn idea again.

While the search for ways and means to get Vietnam to the negotiating table continues, the international community must be reminded that to make Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea unprofitable, the coalition government must be supported not only diplomatically, but materially for it to mount effective opposition to dislodge the occupation troops, in the face of a Heng Samrin regime that is entrenching itself deeper into Kampuchean life.

CSO: 4200/548

EDITORIAL URGES VIGILANCE AGAINST COMMUNISTS

BK131035 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Apr 83 p 18

[Editorial: "On Guard Always"]

[Text] Datuk Musa Hitam has repeatedly warned Malaysians of the communist threat in this country. Though the security situation is well under control, we should never underestimate the enemy. The terrorists are now moving south and they are trying to use Islam to gain popular support. Infiltrating Orang Asli settlements, they are forcing the people there to help them. We know that the terrorists from the Teriang area in Pahang have been trying to set up a base at Jelebu in Negeri Sembilan. Communists have been trying to exploit religion and racial issues to gain Malay support in Kelantan and Terengganu. Underground elements are trying to revive "united front" activities in Johor.

This is how the enemy works: Fight when and where they can. Otherwise subvert the people. Armed struggle and subversion are the twin components of the communist strategy to capture power. Though they have attempted to stage a military comeback from 1968 onwards after their defeat and disintegration in the 1948-60 insurgency, the communist terrorists have again failed miserably in their path of violence. Our security forces have been out-gunning the exponents of power flowing from the gun's barrel. Part from modern weapons, the discipline and dedication of our fighters have kept the elusive enemy on the run.

Their military approach having floundered, the communists have switched to underground tactics. Being in desperate straits, they will clutch at any straw. Thus professed atheism has not stopped them from using religion to pursue their evil ends. They have also resorted to the use of dadah [drugs] to sap the energy, willpower and integrity of young people. The so-called threat of Soviet-Vietnamese hegemonism has been invoked as a red herring. Once again they have proclaimed themselves as the protectors of the people--despite having failed before to champion their constitutional struggle for independence. They came down before because they flopped in the vital hearts-and-minds campaign during the first emergency. Now they even try to appeal to young intellectuals. Their propaganda to undermine the people's confidence in the government is part of their "white ant" strategy working through communist cells to subvert an often unwary population. Without mass support, there will be no water for the terrorists to swim in. We must never drop our guard against such a cunning, determined and ruthless foe. Vigilance has to be out watchword.

CSO: 4200/548

BRIEFS

SRV OFFENSIVE TERMED 'DESPERATE ACT'--The minister of foreign affairs, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, has described the Vietnamese attack on refugee camps on the Thai-Kampuchean border as a desperate act. At the same time he said the Vietnamese incursion into Thai territory is extremely undesirable. He made the remark in an interview with Radio Television Malaysia. [Text] [BK081429 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 8 Apr 83]

CPM TACTICS BETTER UNDERSTOOD--Kuala Lumpur, 7 Apr (AFP)--The Malaysian Government has discovered several strategies and secrets of "communist terrorists" following a successful drive by security forces against communist forces in the Central Pahang and Negri Sembilan states and the northern border state of Perak, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam said today. Datuk Musa, who is also the home affairs minister, said several firearms and communist documents were also recovered. He said the security forces' successes had confirmed several suspicions: that the sixth assault unit of the Malaysian Communist Party was trying to expand the area of its operations to the southern part of the peninsula; that "communist terrorists" had infiltrated several Orang Asli (aborigines) settlements with the aim of coercing the Orang Asli to help them; that one of the women terrorists killed in Perak was a former resident of Singapore who joined the communist organization in 1976. He said the government was aware that the sixth assault unit of the communists was also trying to extend its areas of operation into southern peninsular Malaysia. [Text] [BK080724 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 8 Apr 83]

TWO CPM ORGANS 'NONEXISTENT'--The two organizations under the outlawed Communist Party Malaya [CPM]--the Malay Islamic Brotherhood Party and the Social Malay Nationalist Revolutionary Party--exist only on paper. This was disclosed by the Dedah-Perlis chief police officer, Datuk Abdul Hamid Mohamed, in Alor Setar today. According to him, the two parties claimed that they have strong support from the Malays. However, this is not true. Opening the (Padang Serak) Pondok Polis [police barrack] some 35 km from the state capital, Datuk Abdul Hamid says the CPM is concentrating in its efforts to gain the support of the Malays by using Islam and Malay culture to win them over. All such efforts will be futile if the people are cautious and willing to cooperate with the government in maintaining peace in the country. He points out that the spirit of neighborliness and unity will also help check the communist propaganda. He urges the people to furnish information on communist and other criminal activities to the authorities. [Text] [BK031255 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 83]

POLITICAL AFFAIRS MINISTER REJECTS OPPOSITION DEMANDS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Apr 83 p 40

[Text] Political Affairs Minister Leonardo B. Perez said yesterday the so-called "minimum conditions" set by various opposition groups for their participation in the regular Batasan elections in 1984 "are in fact difficult if not impossible conditions."

He said these are conditions that require the commission of unconstitutional acts to achieve them.

Perez appealed to opposition leaders to manifest "genuine willingness" to reach a common ground of an understanding "where resilience and accommodation are qualities to be honored more than those of arrogance and inflexibility."

The political affairs minister, who is concurrently chairman of the Batasan committee on revision of laws, codes, and constitutional amendments, noted that the Liberal Party (LP) announced to both local and foreign media that it was not fielding candidates for the Batasan because its "minimum conditions" have not been complied with the administration.

Among the conditions were revamp of the Commission on Elections and appointment of former Supreme Court Justices J. B. L. Reyes, Guillermo Santos, Cecilia Munoz Palma, and Cesar Bengzon to the Comelec; return to district representation; abolition of block voting; longer period of campaign, to last at least 120 days.

The United Nationalist Democratic Organizations (Unido) demanded that President Marcos relinquish the presidency and dissolve the Batasang Pambansa so that a junta can take over the government for one year, a new Constitution be drafted and ratified within one year to restore the Senate and the House of Representatives, election for president and members of both houses of Congress after ratification of the Constitution.

Perez observed that the Nacionalista party (NP) has not indicated whether it would also seek fulfillment of pre-conditions. This is perhaps one reason why the NP has been referred to as the "manageable opposition," he added.

CSO: 4200/544

ASEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS WRAP UP BUSINESS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Apr 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by C. Valmorla, Jr.]

[Text]

The fifth general assembly of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO) closed yesterday with the same strong family spirit and solidarity which have made Asean a power to reckon with in international forums.

It will meet again in September in Singapore for its sixth general assembly to decide, among others, on the location of a permanent AIPO secretariat.

Seventeen resolutions were approved unanimously in a joint communique signed by heads of delegations from Asean's five working parliaments.

The 17 areas of cooperation embodied in the resolutions ranged from the condemnation of Vietnam, Asean trade expansion, and cultural exchange and development to narcotics and drug abuse prevention and care for the aged.

Some 150 delegates attended the sessions which were held in an atmosphere of brotherhood, cordiality, and mutual understanding.

Dato Mohd. Zahir bin Ismail, speaker of Malaysia's Dewan Rakyat and head of delegation, said AIPO must press on.

He said he would like to see an increasing practice among Asean parliaments to adopt common legislative framework for matters of common concern.

M. Kharis Suhud, head of Indonesian delegation, observed that all delegates demonstrated the Asean spirit in its totality and dealt with subjects in a most responsible and thorough fashion.

Prof. S. Jayakumar of the Singapore delegation noted that the unequivocal condemnation of use of force and violation of territorial sovereignty of an Asean member showed solidarity and support with regard to any threat or use of force against any of the five Asean countries.

Air Chief Marshal Harin Hongskula, head of the Thai delegation, thanked the four other Asean members for their support on the unwarranted incursion of his country's borders. He said that while the Asean countries want to see their homelands as a zone of peace and freedom, Vietnam has brought super-power rivalry into the region.

Speaker Querube C. Makalintal, AIPO president, said the organization should not sit back complacently to await plaudits for the success of the fifth general assembly, but rededicate itself to facing the challenges that awaits it in Singapore.

Minister of State Antonio Tupaz, head of the Philippine delegation, said one of the most outstanding AIPO accomplishments was the approval of a proposal to establish an Asean parliament. He said there can be no real Asean unity without a regional legislature.

PHILIPPINES

PRESIDENT ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT MOSCOW

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 11 Apr 83 p 6

[Text] President Marcos said yesterday he has accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union again, adding that he will make the visit "at the earliest available time."

The President first made a state visit to the Soviet Union in 1975.

His acceptance was announced by Malacanang as it reported that visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa had conveyed to the President an invitation of Secretary General Yuri Andropov.

The First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, has been to the Soviet Union five times, once in 1972, during the 1975 state visit, in 1978 and twice last year-- the first time to negotiate trade matters and to attend the final stages of the Tchaikovsky competition, and the second in November when she attended the funeral rites for President Leonid Brezhnev.

CSO: 4200/544

GOVERNOR MARCOS LAUNCHES ILOCOS NORTE PROJECTS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 8 Apr 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Natural Resources Minister Teodoro Pena launched the other day natural resources programs and projects.

Gov. Marcos spearheaded the following:

--Deputized various barangay captains as fish wardens and forest guards to protect aquamarine and reforestation projects.

--Awarded stewardship contracts to forest occupants in Sucsucquen, Piddig-Barbarangay, Espiritu, Esperanza, Vintar-Badaor, Bangul, and Campig, Pagudpud.

--Designated communal pasture areas by the towns of Pinili, Durnalneg and Bangui.

--Delivered 37,000 land titles for 14,000 hectares of farmer-beneficiaries who will engage in agro-forestry projects.

--Signed an agreement between the Ministry of Natural Resources and the different fishermen's associations for the putting up of fish bamboo shelter projects in the towns of Currimao, Pagudpud and Pasuquin.

Gov. Marcos and Minister Pena also dispersed 75,000 tilapia fingerlings in Buris-Kuritat dam, Marcos town and at Suba impounding dam. (PNA)

CSO: 4200/544

COLUMNIST ANALYZES MARCOS' ROLE

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 30 Mar 83 pp 4, 11

[Article by Danny M. Gonzales]

[Text] only the family name. The complete name is Ferdinand Edralin Marcos. So, who is Ferdinand Edralin Marcos? To the ordinary minds, he is either--depending on how bias the beholder is--the enemy of the people or the people's great leader. To this critics, he is the man who caused the misery the Filipino is in right now. The man to hate. The man who should be dislodged from power. The man who should go--never to come back again. On the other hand, his sympathizers look up to him as the nation's hope, the man who should never be replaced as head of the republic.

But Who Is He, Really?

But who is Marcos, really. To those who have surmounted the barriers of emotionalism, biased thoughts, and prejudices, he is a genius. A gifted man. One who appears to be an evil, yet an instrument for the good. Something black, yet white. A wrong that is right. A devil that's an angel.

Difficult to Understand

But what we're saying is difficult to understand. Even by those in the government service--military or civilian. Or those who, by sheer loyalty or ulterior motive to profit from the regime, follow the dictates of power--right or wrong. How could evil be good; devil, angel? Or wrong--right?

Language of the Gods

However, these simple-minded people don't reckon with the language of the Gods. Their perception is limited to the distinction between black and white, between right and wrong, between evil and good, between big and small, between light and heavy between loud and feeble--or what have you.

An Enigma

Marcos, as a man and leader, is an enigma. He carves for himself an image. One that could be reprehensible, despicable, condemnable, etc. To some, he

stands in representation of what is wrong. On the other hand, he is the reverse of all this in the minds of those who are for him. Why do some of his people consider him a heel--and, for others, a hero?

An Instrument?

Is Marcos an instrument of God in His plans for the Filipinos? The wisdom of God is hard to fathom. We, the mortals are limited within the confines of what is normal or ordinary. Beyond it, we know there is the strange, the extraordinary--even the extra-terrestrial, in the language of the young, the E. T. volaries.

But Who Is He?

Again, the question is asked. Who is he? A not difficult question. But the answer to give is not an altogether accurate one. Like the actuation of an individual, no one can tell if he's doing right--or wrong. Only history will tell. Only time will tell. Tomorrow, not today is the better judge of what he was. What he really is will never be yesterday or today--but tomorrow. Judgement at the moment is not only looking back or looking down. It will also be looking ahead.

Who Is He?

To be repetitious, who is Marcos? All things considered, a difficult question to answer now if we consider accuracy. The man, in himself, is an enigma. A puzzle. A maze that challenges the intellect. Suffice it to say that to the ordinary, the normal, and the simple, he represents what we don't like. Sad to say, there are medicines that we don't like--even hate. We can only hope that in talking with Marcos, we are discussing some kind of medicine, a hard pill to take--but one which, ultimately, cures.

A Kind Thought

How could you think that way? A simple question. A valid one. And we don't mind. It's Holy Week. Lenten season, remember? What's wrong with being kind? In our kindness, the Lord will reward us. Even grant us our wish that the man to whom we extend our kindness would change into a better leader.

CSO: 4200/544

EDITORIAL VIEWS MARCOS' OPTIMISM ON ECONOMY

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 11 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "FM's Optimism on RP's Economy"]

[Text]

THE EMPHASIS on the national policy of balanced agro-industrial growth and development is expected to raise the country's per capita income within the next two years, with President Marcos foreseeing prosperity as the world economy goes on an upward swing.

The President expressed this optimism the other day by explaining that prosperity "is more a matter of acceleration of momentum than of any specific growth in any area, because the growth in most of the areas has been deliberately brought about by agriculture and industry."

It is generally accepted that countries with agricultural economy have been victims of exploitation in the harsh world of international commerce and trade. And in this age of transnational corporations, the only way developing countries can stay afloat is by developing a balanced agricultural and industrial base.

In explaining the country's development approach, President Marcos said the government has been pursuing to recover the momentum of industrial development. This may have given some critics the notion that the government had not given ample emphasis on agriculture.

At any rate, it stretches the credulity to assume that we are a country which had failed to give importance to agricultural development. The remarkable performance of our agricultural sector has, as we all know, brought about self-sufficiency in almost all agricultural products.

There is no doubt the critics would have to scan for other issues to raise other than this if only because, having given priority to agricultural development, along with massive social and infrastructure programs, the country had remained unwavering in its objective to achieve a balanced agro-industrial growth.

But while there are good reasons for optimism over recent local and global economic developments, the President warned against any relaxation of efforts to achieve development. Indeed, if we are truly looking forward to a measure of prosperity within the next two years, it is deemed an imperative to accelerate agro-industrial productivity.

BUSINESS COLUMNIST SCORES GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 29 Mar 83 pp 3, 8

[Excerpt] Business activity in the first quarter was moderate with the economy still out of steam. High interest rates have squeezed demand. The economy's strength this quarter was concentrated in two sectors, consumer spending and construction. Both sectors will do well to hold their own now and is unlikely to falter badly in the next quarters. Purchases of services is likely to resume their usual climb in the second quarter. And consumer buying, which accounts for two thirds of the Gross National Product (GNP) is expected to begin falling in real terms, but not much, in the second quarter. Our view is that the growth in the first half will be fairly slow.

The reason of business' subdued expectations of the economy is the Administration's policies. In the past, economic downturns have at least brought some price relief, but not this time. The rate of inflation in business prices appears stuck at something around ten percent. And the government release figures on consumer and manufacturer prices do not point to any slowdown ahead. Food prices are also on a fast track, especially on meat products. Prices of other goods in the public markets and supermarkets have subsided a bit recently but the relief will probably be short-lived. What with the new tax measures, unabated graft and corruption, and bureaucratic red tape. Manufacturers of drugs and medicines are marking up their prices at around 250% while other producers of finished products at 100%.

The government is determined to meet money growth on target thru a policy of estaint. The pogam calls of a big tax or increase tax and spending cuts to produce a rise in the Gross National Product (GNP). This is to assume if there is increase productivity and a drop of the inflation rate. However, the general consensus in business and industry to the government's predictions and forecasts is more on the wait-and-see attitude. Many businessmen interviewed by this column last week in Metro Manila are scared of the present business conditions. Assurances of Ministers Virata Ongpin and Mapa including that of CB Governor Laya did not calm their fears. There are still a couple of question marks.

Many of the business executives this column talked to are still in a cautious mood. They are not willing to take risks citing the high borrowing costs of capital. They do not expect a sustained economy this year. They see a little

chance of the promise recovery to happen. Much of the recent moderate improvement in the economy came from consumer spending and construction. They believe both are using their zip and a decline is expected that will slowdown recovery. This time, even with the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK), won't provide any boost to the economy until well into 1984.

CSO: 4200/544

IRANIAN DAILY VIEWS NPA SUCCESSES IN DAVAO

Tehran KAYHAN in English 6 Apr 83 p 4

[Text]

DAVAO, Philippines (Dispatches) — "To all military personnel," reads the note on the glass panel door of the downtown bank. "Deposit your firearms with the security guard when transacting business inside this bank."

Stone walls flanking the door are scrawled with red paint graffiti: "Down with U.S.-Marcos" and "Long Live NPA".

The NPA is the New Peoples Army, military wing of the Philippine Communist Party, which is expanding its rural and urban guerrilla war against the government.

Government critics blame military atrocities, more than anything else, for the Communists gains. But the situation in Davao, 600 miles (965 km) southeast of Manila, illustrates the problems haunting the 17-year-old government of President Ferdinand Marcos.

In a recent, major strategy shift, the NPA began mounting large-scale attacks against government forces.

In one 2-day battle involving 200 Communist regulars, 45 people including 16 government soldiers were killed. It was the bloodiest firefight in recent years. The worried government rushed in helicopters and 2,000 marines.

One western analyst estimated the armed strength of the NPA throughout the Philippines at 6,000 troops.

He said the Communists also can count on the support of some 24,000 "friendly but unarmed" villagers and on another 60,000 people "who are not hostile —

who will not tattle to the government about their movements."

"Large groups of NPAs cannot operate, much less cover their tracks, unless they have support of the civilians," said a government official.

Government analysts have played down the NPA threat, pointing out that no Communist-held communities or enclaves exist. They say Communist troops are forced to live in the hills and appear only for small skirmishes with government troops or to set up a road ambush.

'Situation Near Anarchy'

The violence in the rugged Davao countryside is mirrored by terrorism in the 800,000-resident provincial capital, although there is an aura of normality.

Cargo ships regularly call to take on copra, bananas and pineapples for such American multinationals as Dole, and Castle and Cook. At night, few uniformed military or police personnel walk the streets. The constabulary barracks is cordoned off.

Businessmen maintain private armies. A plantation owner travels in a convoy of vehicles loaded with armed bodyguards and security men with submachine guns and automatic rifles prowl his plantation.

There are persistent reports of gunbattles in the city, kidnappings for ransom and robberies. At least 149 people have been killed in political violence since urban terrorism began in January 1982.

Some crimes are blamed on the NPA and others on the military

and government-created counter-insurgency vigilantes.

"People do not report (crimes) any more to the military," said civil rights lawyer-Billy Aportadera. "They are afraid that the military is involved. The situation is near anarchy."

Government troops are accused of everything from stealing chickens and pigs to torture.

"I think it is the abuse, simple military abuse, and the inability to get justice," said Rev. Ralph Kroes, 51, an American Maryknoll priest who has lived in Davao for 11 years.

"Marcos could assure less military abuse even though he does depend on the military," one western diplomat said. "But in this he is very, very Filipino — he is unwilling to step on the toes of people who have helped and supported him for all these years."

Nine Villagers Hacked to Death

Nine people in a remote Philippine village were reportedly hacked to death and beheaded last week, authorities said.

The Philippine Constabulary said the killers, who numbered around 15, were believed to be members of a religious cult. An

army report, however, said they were suspected Communist New Peoples Army guerrillas.

The massacre occurred in San Antonio village in Misamis Oriental Province, 500 miles (800 kms) southeast of Manila. According to the reports, the victims were members of two families living in one house, including three children.

Misamis constabulary provincial Commander Col. Cesar Navarro told reporters in the provincial capital of Cagayan de Oro that the victims were members of a religious sect called the Philippine Benevolent Christian Missionaries Association.

The victims had expressed a desire to quit the sect a day before the massacre, Navarro said, adding police in the area reported arresting one cultist as a suspect. No details were available about the cults beliefs, however.

The army, in a report to the defense ministry in Manila, gave no details of the massacre, saying only the killers were believed to be "Communist terrorists."

SCIENCE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THAILAND

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Apr 83 p 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Cesar E. A. Virata said yesterday the Philippines and Thailand have signed scientific and technological agreements and that he has consulted with Thai officials on security matters during his visit to Bangkok early this week. Speaking to newsmen at the Manila International Airport on his return, Virata said his primary mission during his three-day state visit which began Sunday was to pay his respects to Thai King Bhumipol Adulyadej on the occasion of the 200th year of the Chakri dynasty's reign.

He said Thailand is interested in information on the Philippines' geothermal energy technology because of the Thais' intention to develop their natural gas fields in northern Thailand.

On the other hand, the Philippines is also interested in Thailand's aquaculture know-how in line with the country's food production program, Virata said.

VIRATA, accompanied during his visit by his wife Joy and Deputy Foreign Minister Pacifico Castro, said he discussed security matters with Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, who briefed him on the current fighting on the Thai-Kampuchea border.

Virata visited the border areas where Thai forces had fought off Vietnamese troops who intruded into Thailand several days ago and looked into what type of assistance the Thais needed.

However, he said the fighting has receded and the situation is normalizing along the Thai-Kampuchea border.

VIRATA said other issues taken up during the visit were:

- The granting of landing rights to the two countries' national airlines. He said talks on granting the Philippine Airlines landing rights in Bangkok in exchange for similar rights for Thai International in Manila will begin May 11.

- Thai-Philippine cooperation in the field of fertilizer production.

- Review of trade relations between the Philippines and Thailand in view of the 30 percent drop in Philippine exports to Thailand last year.

- Possible use by the Philippines of Thailand's Landsat satellite facilities for mapping purposes.

CSO: 4200/544

EDITORIAL RECOMMENDS JAPAN AS DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 5 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial by Al Alinsug]

[Text] The race for high technology between Japan and the U.S. has spawned trouble in Western Europe. Japan has come to dominate, reports Newsweek, the multimillion-dollar high technology field with the U.S. threatening an estimated 2 million jobs.

Here in RP we are least bothered by the high-tech race: we are giving time to check anomalies on our KKK which sleek operators still think a fast buck can be made out of this program.

There is talk we have to change direction: after saying the infrastructures of development, we must now concentrate on the development of technology and the machines that should run the factories.

We seldom make reference to Japan's leap to industrialization. And yet it is ironic Japan which is our close industrialized neighbor has never been made the model for development. There seems to be a need to make a thorough study of the Japanese example.

There is much to learn from postwar Japan. How did Japan rise to its feet after it was razed to the ground by atomic bombs?

It is admitted in the high councils of government that our major problem is economic. But I'm afraid we are not mustering our strengths and our resources toward the economic problem. We are preoccupied with other things like keeping political power.

National problems can not be cured or hidden by propaganda. The problems of the people affect their own existence and as such there is no sense attempting to confuse them by lulling them into a false sense of wellbeing. The best proof for them is in the eating: when government gives the people efficient service, when justice is done, when their needs are fulfilled, when they live decently--these the people would know.

The people do not even need to be told what the government is doing for them: they will know it because they taste what it feels to have government do it for them. So far there is much to feel sorry for despite all the government propaganda because in the final analysis it's the people themselves who really know and they can not be fooled. Unless they allow themselves to be fooled, but this does not make any good. The problems continue to aggravate, altogether bad for government and the people.

CSO: 4200/544

OPLE REJECTS U.S. CONTROLS ON MILITARY BASE 'RENT'

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Apr 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE UNITED STATES has no right to tell the Philippines how to spend \$200 million in economic support funds paid as "rent" for American military bases in the country, Labor Minister Blas F. Ople said yesterday.

Ople, a member of the technical group preparing for this month's review of the RP-US military bases agreement, also said the total annual "compensation" of \$100 million was inadequate but refused to cite the figure to be demanded by the government.

Ople's statement came one day after President Marcos complained that the US Agency for International Development wanted to "control" the economic support funds which it sees as "aid" but are considered by the government as rent at the Philippines' disposal.

The Philippines must have "full and undisputed" rights to dispose of the funds and any American conditions would be "derogatory" to Filipino sovereignty, Ople said.

UNDER a best-effort pledge of former US President Jimmy Carter, Washington gave the Philippines a \$500 million military and economic package for 1979-83.

It included \$50 million in military grants, \$250 million in foreign military sales credits, and \$200 million earmarked for developing communities around Clark air base and Subic naval base.

MALACAÑANG sources said last January that the Philippine panel planned to ask for a \$1.5 billion package for 1983-88, the period to be covered in this month's review.

Asked to reveal the new amount to be asked by the government, Ople said he was not authorized to do so but indicated the Philippines might try to collect possible "back rentals" since the military bases agreement was signed in 1947.

"It's not that we want to charge back rentals, but they have gotten off since 1947 with just about three reviews of the base (agreement)," Ople added. (AFP)

RESURGENCE OF PRIVATE ARMIES REPORTED

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Apr 83 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mel Parale]

[Text] Northern Luzon folk sought yesterday the help of the defense ministry to stop the apparent resurgence of private armies in the region.

The appeal was conveyed in a letter-complaint to Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile by an Isabela business trader who documented incidents where, he said, hooded men are terrorizing and mulcting local businessmen.

The trader, Manuel L. Siquian, and other residents, denounced to Enrile a recent attack of the armed masked men at a sawmill, killing four civilian workers and wounding several others.

The attack, which occurred at a forrest clearing in San Mariano, Isabela, last March 21, has stirred a new atmosphere of terror that could paralyze business in the province," the residents said.

Witnesses said the attackers were armed with garands and armalites.

The workers in nearby sawmills have lately refused to report for work for fear of their lives, the residents said. expensive equipment for processing of forest products have likewise been abandoned by operators.

Earlier, another group of masked men attacked the Salay village in Isabela killing two workers and wounding two policemen.

The residents said several masked men also assaulted the nearby Tappa village in San Mariano late last year and burned a bulldozer owned by a sawmill in the area.

The residents said they suspected that the hooded men have the backing of influential persons "or they won't be fully armed and have the courage to terrorize residents and traders." They asked Enrile to immediately send troops to pacify the area.

CSO: 4200/544

PHILIPPINES

NPA RAID ON TOWN HALL, OTHER ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 Apr 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] A company of about 100 New People's Army members pulled simultaneous lightning raids on the municipal hall of Tubod, Surigao del Norte, and the camp of the Surigao Consolidated Mining Co. at about 4 p.m. last March 30, belated reports said yesterday.

According to military officers, the dissidents took one M-16 rifle, eight shotguns, a radio set, five typewriters, four calculators, and several sets of police uniforms.

The raiders led by a certain "Kumander Boy Kano" reportedly used three trucks which they later abandoned at the Mainit junction, about 10 kilometers from the raided offices.

Constabulary elements under Lt. Col Sulpicio Iilana, provincial commander of Surigao del Norte, were immediately dispatched to track down the raiders. No contact with the rebels had been reported until presstime.

According to military informants, the raiders included five female members armed with light machineguns believed to have been confiscated from government troops during earlier raids.

Since last year, the NPA had reportedly acquired more than 400 firearms, including machineguns, from government troopers in Northern Mindanao, as well as high-frequency radio sets.

Cebu City, April 8--Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile said today he had ordered the transfer to Camp Aguinaldo of six suspected dissidents presently detained at Camp Catitipan in Davao city.

Enrile said he also ordered that the detainees be kept incommunicado in separate detention cells. The order carried instructions that the six be classified as "maximum security" detainees.

The six detainees are Carlos Gaspar, alias "Karl Gaspar," an anthropologist and head of Resources Development Foundation (RDF), a local institution suspected of being used as a front by the Communist Party of the Philippines;

German Lutheran lay workers Volcker Martin Jurgen Schmidt of Hamburg, West Germany; Ana Mae Morillos, 24; Jethro Dionisio, 23; Gilda Narcisco, 38; and Fr. Orlando Tizon, a Catholic priest from Samar.

All were arrested with a presidential commitment order, (PCO).

Gaspar, Schmidt, Morillos, Dionisio, and Narciso were arrested last March 24 during a raid on a suspected underground house of the CPP's Southern Mindanao regional party committee (SMRPC) on Bolton st., Davao city.

Fr. Tizon was captured last September after a shootout with dissidents in a Davao city subdivision during which Edgar Jopson, a CPP central committee member, and another companion were killed.

Enrile was interviewed on his way back to Manila from Oton, Iloilo where he addressed yesterday a three-day security and development seminar/workshop. He stopped over here for the night.

Davao City, April 8--Cases of conspiracy to commit rebellion and illegal possession of ammunition were filed today against Carlito Gaspar, alias "Karl Gaspar," detained head of the Resource Development Foundation of Davao, before the city fiscal here.

The case was filed by PC authorities through the regional judge advocate Lt. Col. Enrique J. Lacanilao.

Military sources said Gaspar was brought to Manila in connection with a petition for the writ of habeas corpus filed before the Supreme Court on behalf of his sister Helen Gaspar through counsel, former Senator Jose W. Diokno. (RCC)

Attacking NPA rebels were repulsed by ICHDF members from Maibo and Takol who rushed to reinforce their embattled fellow tribesmen in sito Lipara, near Maibo project on the border of Tulanan, North Cotabato, and Magsaysay, Davao del Sur.

The NPA attack took place April 5 at 10 p.m.

The NPA was believed to have lost one man with several others wounded. In their hurried retreat, they left behind carbines and some automatic weapons.

On the tribal ICHDF side, one was killed, another seriously wounded, and others wounded.

Seventeen families fled Lipara for the safety of Maibo. A request for aid to the families has been received and acted on by Panamin.

A Catholic leader of Mindanao yesterday blamed the military's "lack of credibility" for the "widespread perception" linking officers to crime and irregularities in the South.

This is why President Marcos' call to purge the military command of "scalawags" finds urgency in the war going on in Mindanao, said Fr. Robert A. Bomeisl, S. J., for 13 years dean of the Ateneo graduate school in Zamboanga city.

This and the difficulties caused by the "longest drought to hit Mindanao within memory" have escalated bloodshed, he said in a speech before the Makati Rotary club at the Peninsula Hotel.

Fr. Bomeisl, from the Bronx of New York, who recently became a Filipino citizen, said the government must recognize and learn to accept the "dramatic role" of the church working with the masses in critical situations such as that in Mindanao today.

The distressed conditions tend to accentuate the misdeeds of military officers to whom the ordinary people turn in their "life-and-death struggle," said Bomeisl, a member of the Zamboanga city planning office.

"It is public knowledge that some officers are allegedly actively engaged in landgrabbing, in the cornering of rubber and coconut plantations, and are behind illegal logging," he told the Rotarians.

CSO: 4200/544

COLUMNIST REPORTS USSR'S KAPISTA WARNING ON ASEAN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Apr 83 p 6

[Article by Jesus Bigarnia]

[Excerpt]

A Singapore Foreign Ministry announcement claims that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa said in the Lion City recently that the Soviet Union would back insurgent groups in Asia if the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) persists in opposing Hanoi's policies in the region. Translation: Keep your eyes closed and your mouths shut on Vietnam's conquest of Kampuchea and Laos, or else. ... So what is new? Independent study groups and American intelligence have been warning the world that Vietnam was receiving not only moral support but also logistical assistance from Moscow.

Of course, the compleat diplomat that he has become, Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo denies any sabre-rattling here by the visiting Soviet official. A not so endemic

insurgent movement — the communist-oriented New People's Army — has, of late, been flexing previously unused muscles. Sadly, it must be admitted that the rebels have been showing unusual strength and boldness. The Philippines cannot afford to trigger the Russians to carrying out their threat as reported in Singapore.

The Philippines has ever been in the forefront of the movement demanding the withdrawal of Vietnamese armies from Kampuchea and Laos. On this subject, there can be no question that Minister Romulo clashed with the visitor. For the Philippine government through its minister of foreign affairs to waver at this point could touch off the death of Asean. Feeling threatened by the Vietnamese military presence in next-door neighbors, Thailand, Malaysia, even Singapore, would certainly feel betrayed by Philippine capitulation to Mr. Kapitsa's threats.

CSO: 4200/544

LAUREL URGES AMNESTY BE GRANTED TO OPPOSITION

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 4 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Assemblyman Salvador "Doy" Laurel has urged President Marcos to grant general amnesty to rebels in the hills and dissenters and critics in exile and all political "offenders" so that peace can be achieved and "the ravages of a revolution which is no longer just a threat but has begun," can be averted. This was revealed by Malaya to which Laurel, president of UNIDO issued a statement last week.

Laurel made a package of suggest-ions which he called as UNIDO's peace plan before officers and members of a fraternity of law students of the Far Eastern University at which forum Laurel enjoined the youth and the "silent majority" to help UNIDO in the "last peaceful alternative to restore democracy."

Laurel's peace plan includes:

--Granting of general amnesty to all political offenders so that the rebels who are in the hills and dissenters critics in exile can come home.

--Legalizing the Communist Party of the Philippines so that its members can come out and participate in the electoral process.

--Restoration of freedom of the press without which no nation can call itself a true democracy.

--Holding of free, orderly and honest elections so that the sovereignty of the people can be restored.

--Writing of a new Constitution that would remove all unwanted provisions of the present charter and dismantle the apparatus of authoritarian rule now institutionalized in the present Constitution.

In support of his proposal, Laurel cited the following findings based on the information rallies held by UNIDO in 12 regions:

1. There is no province in Mindanao now where peaceful elections could be held. There is fighting and killing going on everyday The New People's Army (NPA) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and other radical elements move almost at will.

2. Fighting has spread to eastern and western Visayas Bicol region and northward reaching up to the Cagayan valley down to Quezon province, the upper portion of Mountain Province, Abra and Ilocos Sur, Zambales and Bataan are already affected.

3. Net assessment is that if conditions continue to worsen and an election is now called a relatively peaceful balloting could be conducted in only 5 out of 13 regions, namely: Metro Manila, southern Tagalog, part of Ilocos region, part of central Luzon and portions of central Visayas.

4. Even Metro Manila is now threatened. Based on reports on a recent military briefing of 15 governors and city mayors of provinces and cities surrounding Metro Manila, radical elements have joined forces and surrounded Metro Manila in a concerted effort to transfer the site of combat to the National Capital region.

5. Government reports published in metropolitan newspapers have reluctantly admitted that the NPAs had opened 14 new fronts.

All these reports and findings, the UNIDO president said clearly indicate that "our house is on fire and we should address ourselves to that problem now."

"We cannot talk of elections or of economic recovery unless we first put out the fire," Laurel said. "We are uniting all opposition forces and other concerned elements throughout the country to present to Mr Marcos what we consider to be the only antidote to a violent revolution."

CSO: 4200/544

MILITARY, BARANGAYS HOLD DIALOGUE SERIES

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Apr 83 p 40

[Text]

BALANGA, Bataan, April 9 — The first of a series of dialogues between the military and the barangay captains was held yesterday in Orion, hometown of Cayetano Arellano, the first Filipino justice of the Supreme Court.

Lt. Col. Cesar I. Alvarez, Bataan PC commander, and Maj. Jose M. Hermogenes, assistant provincial commander, initiated the project in an effort to bridge the gap between the military and the countryside folk.

The dialogue saw the emergence of aggressive and development inspired barangay leaders who brought to the fore various subjects of consequential significance, including the prevailing peace and order in Orion.

Hosted and presided over by Mayor Gabriel L. Manrique, the dialogue succeeded in portraying the sincere de-

sire of the countryside leaders to develop their communities and uplift the economic life of their constituents.

Noting the vital role played by the barangay officials in the gigantic task of nation-building, Colonel Alvarez said that the PC and the police will do everything they can in maintaining peace and order.

Colonel Alvarez called on the barangay executives to report to him any misbehaving member of the PC or police so he can take the necessary step to discipline him. He said he does not tolerate bad eggs in his command.

1st Lt. Loreto N. Abad, commanding officer of the 165 district command, and Maj. Lopez, Orion police station commander, urged the barangay folk to call their attention on matters needing police work before taking them up with their superiors.

CSO: 4200/544

COLUMNIST DEFENDS LAYA'S PLAN ON FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 11 Apr 83 pp 6, 14

[Excerpt]

The moss-backed saw is apropos to Central Bank Governor Jaime C. Laya's proposal to allow foreign investors to own real estate here for the purposes of their respective businesses. For lack of a credible explanation, the "Laya Plan" may have been lost. Its loss could spell a setback to the national economy. Governor Laya's "think tank" failed to explain that foreigners would be given only the right to use property acquired under a long term lease, not total ownership which would have required amendment of the Constitution. Two other features of property rights — the right to abuse and the right to dispose — were not even mentioned.

On the merits of the Laya proposal, the following comments of a second-echelon Central Bank officer is presented in its defense:

"One of the basic objectives of the Central Bank is to foster monetary, credit and exchange conditions conducive to a balanced and sustained growth of the economy. To achieve these objectives, it has to undertake various programs . . . One recent program of the Central Bank is designed to act as conduit for non-resident investors desiring to acquire real property — factory sites, buildings, residences for staffs, and real estate — needed for their operations. Under this scheme, a non-

resident investor in need of real property would advise the Central Bank that it has found one. The CB would then require the investor to inwardly remit the foreign exchange equivalent to the peso cost, paying the owner of the property in pesos.

"The CB would then consider the foreign exchange inwardly remitted as acquisition from non-trade transactions and may be used in our balance of payments. When the non-resident decides in future to disinvest, he can purchase the foreign exchange equivalent of the cost of the property at the rate prevailing at time of disinvestment. These investments by non-resident investors may also be considered capital formation from without. For a balanced and sustainable growth of a developing economy cannot be achieved from purely domestic capital formation. Foreign borrowings and investments are indispensable inputs to growth. Investments are, moreover, preferable to loans because the investor share the risk less in the project, while the leader in the case of loans is repaid regardless of the outcome of the investment.

Over the years, Filipino real property owners renting out or selling their properties to branches, subsidiaries, liaison offices and staffs of

non-resident investors were paid in foreign exchange, mostly in US dollars, which never were inwardly remitted. Such payments were deposited abroad in numbered accounts. Rents are paid in advance, sometimes, an advance deposit equivalent to one year's rent is required. In addition, rents are raised arbitrarily. Once reputed to be the cheapest country in terms of office and housing costs, the Philippines is now listed as among the highest in Asia. Such a set has discouraged non-resident investors to invest in this country, depriving the Central Bank of foreign exchange and the government of taxes due from these transactions.

Objection of many sectors, including the Civil Liberties Union, to the "Laya Plan" is premised on the constitutional prohibition against ownership of real property by foreign nationals. What the Constitution bans is absolute ownership which includes the right to use, the right to abuse and the right to dispose. The "Laya Plan" does not vest on the non-resident investor absolute ownership to the property. All that he exercises as owner x x x is the use of the property in connection with his operations. He would still need the approval of the Central Bank should he decide to disinvest here.

CSO: 4200/544

KBL PROPOSES AUTOMATIC ACCREDITATION FOR ALL REGISTERED PARTIES

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 15 Apr 83 pp 1, 6

[Article by David C. Borje]

[Text]

THE KILUSANG Bagong Lipunan adopted yesterday a proposal to allow all registered political parties to enjoy the rights of an accredited party without actually accrediting them.

The KBL stand, which is likely to be adopted as an amendment to the Election Code, will enable all registered parties regardless of their performance in past elections to have poll watchers and the privilege of block voting.

Under the present rules, only parties who have garnered at least 10 percent of the votes in the 1980 presidential elections are entitled to these privileges.

THE EASING of the rules was proposed yesterday in the KBL caucus by Minister Leonardo B. Perez, chairman of the Batasan committee on revision of laws, codes and constitutional amendments.

The three-hour caucus also decided to maintain the Batasan membership to 165 regional assemblymen, 14 sectoral representatives and some Cabinet members to be appointed by the President, but not exceeding 200 members.

The KBL, with President Marcos presiding, also agreed that every

province must have at least one seat in the Batasan.

THE KBL unanimously voted to

review the country's economic policies to make them more responsive to the people's needs.

The KBL central committee will convene this morning to start its studies of the economic policies, and other major issues taken up during the caucus.

The central committee includes the President, the three vice presidents representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, 13 regional chairmen, the secretary general, the deputy secretary general and the party treasurer.

PRIME MINISTER Cesar E.A. Virata said "we welcome the resolution to review the economic policies and management because we believe it is one way by which we can plan together and understand the problems."

Other matters the committee will take up:

- A determination of whether the \$2 billion debt limit set for 1983 and the P9.4 billion budgetary deficit limit are already conservative.

- The Central Bank proposal for the government to lease houses and space to foreign investors.

- A new pricing policy for diesel and gasoline in the light of the gov-

ernment's inability to subsidize crude oil to the tune of P55 million monthly.

REJECTED outright by the caucus was a proposal from Justice Minister Ricardo C. Puno liberalizing the policy on leasing, sale and ownership of public land over 1,000 hectares, unless the central committee shall decide to bring up the question anew at the next caucus.

The review of the entire economic policies was recommended by members of the Cabinet and Batasan, among them were Assemblymen Teodulo Natividad, Arturo Pacificador, Jeremias Montemayor, Emmanuel Pelaez, Vicente Millora, Jorge Royeca and Januario Seno, Labor Minister Blas F. Ople, Ambassador Roberto S. Benedicto, Lanao del Sur governor Ali Dimaporo, and Minister Perez.

DURING the caucus, the President also:

- Ordered Budget Minister Manuel Alba to release the P450 million unreleased funds for the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan for 1982, as well as the funds due for release during the first quarter of 1983.

- Asked Prime Minister Virata to look into reports that the Bureau of Customs had imposed a 3-percent tax on an oil rig.

- Took exception to a newspaper report that the Philippine National Bank had stopped the withdrawal of foreign exchange deposits.

DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS FOREIGN PRIESTS WATCHED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 8 Apr 8 pp 1, 12

[Article by Jose De Vera]

[Text]

OTON, Iloilo, April 7 — Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile disclosed here today that the government is studying the applicability of existing espionage laws to foreign missionaries and priests in the wake of reports that some are in connivance with local and foreign elements out to overthrow government.

Enrile also bared an ongoing movement by local communists to drive a wedge between the church hierarchy and the laity.

Enrile made the disclosure in a keynote address at the Security and Development Seminar-Workshop for local executives of Panay.

The three-day workshop seminar is being attended by all mayors and governors of the provinces of Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz, and Antique, and military commanders in the area led by Col. Isidoro de Guzman, commander of the PC-INP Region VI.

In an interview with newsmen, Enrile said that in due time, the government will expose the

funding of the local communist propaganda groups by international foreign funding institutions that ride on legitimate church-sponsored projects.

Based on lessons from Vietnam, Cambodia, Afghanistan, and other countries where communists have taken over, the techniques of Marxists are deception, violence, and propaganda, Enrile said.

"They tell you that they will respect your religious rights but in truth, they will destroy all forms of structured religions of all denominations," Enrile said.

He said Marxists will abolish all institutions of private ownership and individual initiative or enterprise. They will herd people into re-education camps to be schooled under a concept of equality in which every talent, resource, and capability of man is subordinate to the imperatives of the state.

DAVAO CITY, April 7 — Three guerrillas and one civilian home defense force member were killed, while three others were wounded in two encounters between government

soldiers and members of the New People's Army in North Cotabato and Davao del Sur.

The first encounter occurred in barangay Daig, Tulunan, North Cotabato where two rebels and one CHDF member were killed in a clash yesterday.

Of the three victims, only Ricardo Matrido, a CHDF member, was identified.

Two CHDF members identified as Nestro Malinao and Juan Paez, a barangay councilman of Tulunan, were seriously wounded.

In Bansalan, Davao del Sur, one Gregorio Selga, a suspected unit organizer of the NPA, was killed in a brief encounter with lawmen.

His woman companion managed to escape. However, she was reportedly wounded during the clash.

In Tagum, Davao del Norte, four college students suspected as drug pushers were killed one after another by armed men believed to be NPA rebels, in barangay La Filipina.

Maj. Carlos N. Garcia, Tagum police station commander, identified the victims as Epifanio

Niega, 20; Renato Esquivel, 17; Edgar Montilla, 19; and Benjamin Granada, 20.

Niega, who was the last to be killed yesterday was shot twice on head while playing basketball. (RCC)

LIPA CITY, April 7 — A New People's Army commander and two other rebels were killed while the city chief of police here was wounded during a brief gunbattle near the foot of Mt. Malarayat, barangay Sto. Niño, last Tuesday morning.

Col. Soliman Mendoza, Batangas PC commander, in a report to Brig. Gen. Andres B. Ramos, PC-INP chief of Recom 4, identified the man killed as Bernardo Regalado alias "Ka Andoy," reportedly the NPA commander operating in Batangas, Quezon, and Laguna provinces.

Regalado's two aides were identified only as alias "Ka Dopong," and "Ka Tirso."

Taken from the rebels were one Russian made submachinegun AK-47, one automatic carbine, one .30 caliber Springfield rifle, and one Super .38 caliber pistol with several rounds of assorted

ammunitions and subversive documents.

Mendoza said Regalado's group is responsible for the fatal ambush last Oct. 2 of PC highway patrol Staff Sergeants Mariano Ogot and Reynaldo Constantino in

Buli, Padre Garcia, Batangas.

Two armalite rifles and two service pistols of the highway patrol soldiers were taken by the rebels.

Wounded was police major Rafael Honrade, station commander of Lipa city. He was shot in the left leg and was confined at the Fernando Air Base Hospital here.

Mendoza said Regalado's group had been under surveillance for many months. The rebels were based in the isolated barangay of Sto. Niño, Mendoza said. Seven NPA members were reportedly holding a conference in the residence of one NPA supporter when the joint team of PC-INP and civilian home defense force (CHDF) elements surprised them.

Mendoza recommended the spot promotion of Major Rafael Honrade one rank higher. (Owen Masaganda)

CENTRAL BANK 'TIGHTENS GRIP' ON NEW FOREIGN LOANS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Apr 83 p 10

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text] The Central Bank has tightened its grip on new foreign loans of government agencies and state-owned or controlled corporations to make sure that the yearly cash outflows for interest and principal amortization are within the country's ability to pay.

Under LOI 1307 issued recently, the CB was authorized to regulate strictly the maturities and amounts of new foreign borrowings of government agencies and state-owned or controlled firms.

Henceforth, foreign loans will be only for projects that will yield direct foreign exchange earnings or savings in a pattern that matches interest and amortization payments.

The LOI provided that new foreign loans of government agencies will be limited to official development assistance (ODA). Loans from commercial sources will be allowed only in exceptional cases.

Moreover, short-term commercial borrowings will be limited strictly to state-owned or controlled corporations for use in trade-related transactions, subject to the approval of the CB.

In addition, the outstanding amount of short-term foreign debt may not exceed the end-1982 level which amounted to \$4.015 billion.

Apart from controls on new foreign loans, the LOI also authorized the Monetary Board, the CB's governing and policymaking body, to regulate investment, placements and deposits abroad of government agencies.

Government sources pointed out that controls were adopted because some government agencies were planning to place or invest funds abroad.

The LOI also restricted the use of precious foreign exchange for travel and expenses abroad of government officials and offices.

"Government has to set the example in conserving foreign exchange so that the deficit in the balance of payments can be held down to the projected target," the source said.

He added that the public sector has to set the example in conserving precious dollars because of the stringent guidelines on the use of foreign exchange for travel and other expenses abroad by the private sector.

Under the LOI, the CB was directed to see to it that new foreign loans this year are strictly limited to \$2 billion, of which, no more than half will be from commercial sources and, at least half shall be from ODA.

New loans that will not involve net cash outflow for at least five years will be approved on a case-to-case basis with the approval of the President.

CSO: 4200/544

PHILIPPINES

CENTRAL BANK INCREASES PURCHASE OF PANNED GOLD

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Apr 83 p 9

[Text] The Central Bank plans to put up more gold buying stations and to step up purchases from local panners and traders.

The CB said yesterday that its newly-established gold buying station in Cebu City bought some 222,572 ounces of panned gold worth P897,444 during its first week of operations.

Encouraged by the initial results, the CB said more stations will be set up if substantial quantities of panned gold are discovered in other areas.

Substantial amounts of gold have recently been discovered in various regions in the South, particularly, Negros Occidental (Hinobaan), Surigao, Agusan del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Zamboanga and Davao del Norte.

Gold sold to the CB are recorded in the balance of payments (BOP) as export receipts.

The CB put up the gold buying station in Cebu City to help the increasing number of gold panners and traders in the Visayas and Mindanao in selling their gold and spare them the trouble of delivering their gold to the CB Gold Refinery in Quezon City.

The CB buys gold at the closing price of the London Gold Market on the day before the sale and at the interbank guiding rate of the peso to the dollar on the date of sale.

The seller will be paid in advance 70 percent of the value of the gold delivery based on as-received weight and the approximate assay conducted by gold refinery personnel in Cebu City. The remaining 20 percent will be paid by the CB Cebu regional office after receipt of the final outturn report.

Advance payments made by the Cebu buying station amounted to P628,211.23 equivalent to 70 percent of the value of the gold.

As an incentive to panned gold sellers, the CB said it will not collect refining and assay charges for gold deliveries assaying 99.5 percent or more.

CSO: 4200/544

GOVERNMENT TO SELL INTEREST IN THREE BANKS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 7 Apr 83 p 11

[Text]

Three commercial banks where the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and the Philippine National Bank, acting as instrument of the Central Bank, assumed dominant equity position and management control, will soon be sold back to the private sector.

Informed sources disclosed yesterday that the DBP is now bidding out Associated Bank to any interested buyers from the private sector.

The sources said that so far two bids have been received. The first one reportedly came from Leonardo Ty, who has the option of first refusal for the sale of the bank by the DBP.

Ty was the original majority stockholder of Associated Bank until DBP, on instructions from the CB, moved in a year ago, infused new equity, following the injection of advances from the CB, to prevent the collapse of the bank.

Ty reportedly is getting assistance from Jose Ma. Abello and Ronaldo Zamora in

raising some P200 million to buy back his controlling interest in Associated Bank, where he still holds the position of chairman of the board.

The DBP has been running the bank for almost two years now after it put in some P200 million in preferred shares last year.

The new president in the person of Dr. Jesus Estanislao was picked by the DBP and the executive committee that runs the bank consists of DBP and CB nominees.

Associated Bank got some P400 million in DBP equity and CB advances at the height of its crisis a year ago.

Chairman Cesar Zalamea of the DBP said he intends to follow to the letter the monetary board resolution issued last year on Associated Bank. The resolution, he said, directs the management to charge all past due loans of the banks to directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (DOS-RI) against equity.

This means that the stockholdings of the original stockholders, including the P20 million included in the initial capitalization of the bank, will be wiped out, Zalamea said.

Also to be disposed of by the DBP is its 80 per cent equity in International Corporate Bank (Interbank). The sale of 30 per cent of this holdings has almost already been firmed up to Philippine Commercial and Industrial Bank. The other shares will also be bought by two other institutions.

The sources added that the PNB is also now looking for ways to divest itself of its preferred shares invested in Pilipinas Bank.

The PNB became stockholder in the bank and took over its management about four years ago when it was directed by the CB to infuse about P200 million to strengthen the bank's financial position.

CENTRAL BANK PULLS BACK ON NEW SAVINGS BONDS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 11 Apr 83 p 16

[Article by George T. Nervez]

[Text] The Central Bank will not float new issues of its Premyo Savings Bonds (PSB) because of problems in the marketing and public acceptance of the bonds.

The CB also said that it will gradually phase out the eligibility of PSBs as bank reserves so that the banks will be forced to sell the bonds to the public.

CB Gov. Jaime C. Laya said that the PSB flotation was launched to tap individual savings at the grassroots level. However, the objective has not been achieved because the banks preferred to hold rather than sell the bonds because of its eligibility feature.

As of January 31, 1983, PSBs issued amounted to P1.398 billion, of which P1.292 billion or 92.4 percent was held by commercial banks.

Of their P1.292 billion PSB holdings, about P1.071 billion was used as reserves against deposit and deposit substitute liabilities, which was equivalent to 17.5 percent of total government securities used by banks as reserve assets.

The CB head noted that agent banks have indicated that dealership and income from their PSB investments were not enough to cover costs involved in the activation of their branches and retail outlets.

Meantime, the monetary board Friday allowed five more commercial banks controlled by government financial institutions to trade government securities with other government agencies.

The five commercial banks are the Union Bank of the Philippines (UBP), Associated Bank, Philipinas Bank, Commercial Bank of Manila and International Corporate Bank (interbank).

Union Bank is controlled jointly by the Social Security System and the Land Bank of the Philippines, Associated Bank and Interbank by the Development Bank

of the Philippines, Pilipinas Bank by the Philippine National Bank and Commercial Bank of Manila by the Government Service and Insurance System.

The board's move amended circular No. 915 which limited the purchase and sale of government securities by the Corporations with the Central Bank (CB), PNB, DBP, SSS, GSIS, the Philippine Amanah Bank, LBP and the Philippine Veterans Bank.

CSO: 4200/544

ECONOMIST VIEWS SURVIVAL OF KKK

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 Apr 83 p 7

[Article by Manuel L. Morato]

[Text]

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The author holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, Loyola University of Los Angeles, California, 1957; a noted book publisher, he was a standout in the last Gintong Aklat awards where he received two major awards; son of the late Tomas B. Morato, Quezon city's first mayor in October 1939 and recipient of the Highest Medal of Spain from Generalissimo Franco in 1949 and General de Gaulle of France in 1953.)

The Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran livelihood program appears to be headed for the rocks unless a success formula is found on time.

Several factors are believed responsible for the current predicament of the KKK. One is the uneasy peace and order condition in many parts of the country aggravated by the renewed fighting in Mindanao between the government forces and elements of the New People's Army and the Moro National Liberation Front.

The other factor is the people's indifference and apathy to the P400 million livelihood program. It is said that the people's apathy and indifference to the project resulting from ignorance of its noble aims hampers the implementation of the program.

A closer look at the issues, however, points to another factor as a major stumbling block to the

success of the KKK. This factor has something to do with the problem of transportation.

The need for a good transportation system to insure the success of the KKK program is borne out by the fact that in a yearend report, Human Settlements Assistant Minister J. Roberto Ablang said that of 9,051 livelihood projects launched last year, 3,227 are in Luzon.

Undoubtedly, people throughout Luzon who are engaged in KKK projects need to transport their produce to Metro Manila or elsewhere at the fastest time possible and at the least cost. If they will rely on the present means of transport, the profits that they expect to realize will be eaten up by transportation cost.

A KKK buri project, for instance, which requires a capital of P50,000, in a barangay somewhere in

the Bicol region, cannot simply afford the expense for transportation. Of the said capital, about P4,000 will go to machinery and equipment, while P46,000 will go to materials and parts, labor and production overhead. How about for transportation? A Naga to Manila commuter pays about P70 for a regular bus trip. Renting any of those privately-owned transport-cargo trucks to market the buri furniture is an added burden to the KKK entrepreneur. It is small wonder then that the prices of these furnitures are extremely higher in Manila than in the Bicol region.

At the moment, the only means of transport that appears to be in a position to provide lower cost is the Philippine National Railways.

For purposes of this analysis, let me point out the following significant operational details of the PNR. The PNR, which operates the principal railways network in the country, has two main routes in Luzon, a major island of the Philippines with a total land area of 40,420 square miles. Its route line in Northern Luzon ends up in San Fernando, La Union, thus

providing services to the commuters bound for the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan. The same line provides invaluable aid to the commuters of another rice-producing province in Central Luzon. Also reached by the PNR are the cities of Cabanatuan and San Jose, both in Nueva Ecija. The other route, presently called the Main Line South, links Metro Manila, the National Capital region, with the city of Legazpi at the southern end of Luzon. Provinces serviced by this line include Rizal, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Albay.

But to maximize the role of the PNR in the KKK program, it has to be improved and modernized. At present PNR's Main Line South, which does not even reach Legazpi, for the final 14 km. was abandoned in 1976 due to landslides, is "derailed" by its slow commercial speed. The current timetable shows the fastest train reaching the temporary terminus at Camalig, about 460 km. from Manila, in 18 h 35 min, and is definitely late. An unthinkable "commercial speed" compared to the highly-modernized trains in Japan, South Korea, the People's Republic of China, India or Taiwan. On this problem the Ministry of Transportation is work-

ing out a plan to increase the PNR's commercial speed. To achieve a commercial speed of 60 km/h maximum speed must be raised to 75 km/h and communications greatly improved to reduce delays brought about by poor dispatching.

But what about the other KKK projects like aquamarine culture, brick-making, poultry, livestock or abaca handicraft industries, situated in all Luzon provinces. Consider a KKK-financed cottage project of a remote barangay in Bulacan, Sorogon. No longer reached by the PNR, the operator of that particular KKK project certainly would encounter the problem of transporting his products. Or a similar undertaking with the financial backing of the KKK in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur or Sallapandan, Abra. The same problem faced by the rural folks of Kalinga-Apayao, Cagayan, Isabela, Mt. Province, Benguet or Nueva Vizcaya. What about those in Bataan and Zambales?

Moreover, there are other sectors who stand to benefit from a more financially-reinforced PNR. For instance, students from nearby provinces of Metro Manila (such as Bulacan and Pampanga in the north, and Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Batangas in the south) who are enrolled in the universities and colleges in the premier bustling urban center of the

country. They need to stay in any of the sub-standard dormitories or contribute to the congestion problem of the metropolis. They need not worry of the high dormitory rents amidst these inflationary times marked by the low purchasing power of the peso and high prices of most commodities. At a very reasonable fare to be charged by the PNR a student need not be away from his parents who reside in the province. Pegged at "student price" similar to the practice in other public vehicular units, but at a much lower rate than those charged by provincial buses plying the Northern or Southern Luzon routes, a college student enrolled in Manila can go to his daily school activities there in the morning and afternoon and then stay, for example, in Guagua, Pampanga in the evening with his parents or kins. So much savings that the student can appropriate to other basic needs like books, clothing and food.

As the cornerstone of the economic and social transformation of all Filipinos under the New Republic the KKK projects deserved the unrelenting support of the various government offices and agencies, particularly those entrusted by the people to enact legislative measures designed to uplift the living conditions of the masses.

[CONCLUSION OF ARTICLE--10 Apr 83 p 7]

[Text]

But why focus so much attention on the rural area, in general, or, in particular, demand the extension of the lifeline up to the province of Isabela where the recent-

ly constructed Magat Dam is located. Why penetrate the rural areas or the countryside? Why not simply concentrate the transportation-

infrastructure efforts in Metro Manila like the Light Railway Transit or in other urban centers of the country?

The answer to the above explains the very commendable philosophy of the national leadership in bringing about better living conditions in the light of the hard economic times. Since 70 per cent of the Philippines' 50 million population live in the rural areas, the bulk of the KKK projects — home and medium scale industries — are concentrated there.

It is also worth noting that it is in the rural areas or the countryside where the so-called "battle for the hearts and minds of the people" between the government and its avowed armed enemies take centerstage. Insurgents and dissidents' footholds or strongholds are reportedly found in the countryside. It is here where misery and discontentment easily breed and the result is the alienation of the rural folks. Disgusted or disenchanted by the failure of the government to provide basic services they side with the rebel movement. Thus, the dissident count on the rural folks who are sympathetic to their cause for their mass base.

Unlike in the pre-martial law years when the PNR, formerly the Manila Railroad company, was said to be "dying," the lifeline in recent years exhibit remarkable growth. From

this viewpoint, the call for more support to this vital lifeline which transport daily about 30,000 passengers in Metro Manila and registered an aggregate of 850,000 passengers in the first quarter of 1980 alone, is raised.

The PNR needs ₱75 million to complete a ₱400 million project. If we can spend ₱800 million for the Manila International Airport, why not earmark that amount for a mode of transport that the masses can use. Only an insignificant number of Filipinos use the new MIA as compared to the significant hundreds of thousands who will benefit from the completion of the PNR's Main South Line.

Truly, the PNR management deserves commendation for having been able to improve the tracks, but apparently because of insufficient funds they are bound to face a much bigger problem — stopping at the end of tracks quite too far from the destination. Legislative action at the movement is imperative. *Is higher government subsidy the answer?* All progressive countries subsidize railroads to insure cheap means of travel and freight handling. When the large American railroad firms like Pennsylvania, Southern and Sta. Fe went out of business, the US government was forced to enact subsidies

to revive the beleaguered railroad lines in a desperate move to keep the prices of prime commodities down.

Meeting the pressing transportation needs of the people should also be an overriding concern of our legislators. Any further delay in action is detrimental to the interests of the people engaged in the KKK — the farmer would not be able to bring his rice crops, the fishermen his tilapia and the cottage industry operator his handicraft to the market. Such an uncalled for action even runs counter to the profound position of the masses in society as seen by the President when he once asked, "Of what good is democracy for if it is not for the poor?"

As the "major artery of the transport system" — the PNR, and the "impetus for national growth and development" — the KKK, both are apparently locked in symbiotic embrace, therefore, an imprudent act of legislative default by the *Interim Batasang Pambansa* due to sheer neglect or a praiseworthy Batasan measure as a result of a bi-partisan action or initiated by the ruling party which is unlikely to waver to the opposition because of sheer number, draw far-reaching implications: both just might live or die together.

GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATES KKK LOAN PROGRAM

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 14 Apr 83 pp 1, 7

[Article by Mel Parale]

[Text] The review of the performance of local governments in the disposal of KKK loans in their respective areas started yesterday to determine which units are to be blacklisted in the KKK livelihood program.

Covered by the nationwide review are the more than 1,500 municipal, 61 city and 75 provincial governments given KKK funds for loans to deserving projects.

The human settlements ministry mobilized its regional development technical committees to do the review.

The ministry decided to adopt a firm policy to protect KKK funds against irregularities after evaluating field reports indicating that unscrupulous persons are exploiting the KKK loan program.

Human Settlements Deputy Minister Jolly Benitez said local units to be black-listed based on the recommendation of screening bodies will automatically be dropped from the KKK loan program.

Benitez said that they anticipated the KKK program to encounter problems at the initial stage of operation.

He assured that bad elements in the program will be weeded out before they do much harm.

The ministry has so far unearthed apparent irregularities in about 70 local governments.

Human settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos has ordered an investigation to determine the culprits against whom criminal charges will be filed.

Among the complaints aired by vigilant barangay leaders were overpricing in projects recommended for loan, use of dummies to allow persons close to local executives to get several loans, re-lending of KKK funds at usurious interest rates, and use of fictitious properties as collaterals.

Under the loan dispersal program, each mayor is allotted P100,000 for KKK projects in his locality and P500,000 for each governor.

Benitez said steps are being taken to avoid negative experiences in the Green Revolution program.

He cited, as example the duplication of vegetable farming under the Green Revolution which, he said, resulted in the saturation of the vegetable farming industry.

Benitez said KKK loans already approved will be scrapped if investigations show that the loan is to be diverted to non-productive activities.

He mentioned a loan given to a local official whose loan was later to have been spent for a town fiesta.

CSO: 4200/544

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES INTERNATIONAL TRADE BARRIERS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 4 Apr 83 pp 3, 8

[Article by Eddie R. Gondionco]

[Excerpt] Happy Easter to one and all. I hope you had a repentant and prayerful holy week.

Now to continue with the Philippines trading firms abroad. Most of the firms complain of existing relations and bureaucratic red tape which is quite burdensome. Others to lack of tax incentives to stimulate the development of the trading firms. Another is the limited money resources (US dollars) to open a branch or representative offices in other parts of the United States. And other handicaps of which the government already knows. The end result of all these per the observations of this column is that the trading firms are hamstrung in their desire to create an international sales network to benefit the small and medium business in the country.

It has been observed that most exporters want to do their own exporting rather than thru the country's trading firms. Other exporters use trading firms only for the purpose of contacting foreign buyers, after which they eliminate the trading firm and go it alone in their future dealing with the foreign buyers. In short, the trading firms are dropped like a hot potato once they put the exporter in contact with the foreign buyer. That's business, Filipino style.

Management costs of these trading firms are inexitably higher than those operating in the country even with those of manufacturers. And that is the reason why they need to have more tax incentives in order to allow them to strengthen their competitive power on international markets, or at least, an equal footing with trading firms of Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, and others. It seems that some measures adopted by the government are contradictory to their policy of cultivating large-scale trading firms in the United States or elsewhere around the globe.

Despite the difficulties that the Philippines trading firms are facing, they have not yet thrown in the towel. This we gathered in our travels and observations. This column believes that what is needed is a more sound cooperative export system for those in the export industry. And specialized trading

companies. Like for instance a trading firm specializing in such products as rattan, buri and wooden furnitures, handicrafts, shellcrafts, and other allied or related products. And another specialized trading company to promote the export of dried mangoes, canned Philippine fruits, bananas, and other food products.

As for setting up more overseas subsidiaries of Philippine trading firms to boost exports, especially in Europe and the Middle East, perhaps we can go into joint ventures with overseas Filipino businessmen and professionals. And for our commercial secretaries abroad to contact purchasing representatives of large domestic companies to visit the Philippines in an effort to increase sales in that country. This might enable the Philippines to create more effective trade and sales net work abroad. Who knows and why not?

CSO: 4200/544

PORT OF MANILA REVENUE INCREASES 19 PERCENT

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Apr 83 p 16

[Article by F. T. Flores]

[Text]

From January to February this year, the Port of Manila (POM) was able to collect revenues amounting to P31.413 million, up by 19 per cent from the P26.31 million collected last year.

The revenues were derived from port charges such as arrastre, stevedoring, wharfage, storage, entrance, clearance, tonnage and berthing fees.

However, there are still uncollected accounts amounting to P16.508 million as of the end of February of the current year. Of this amount, P11.392

million represents regular receivables while the remaining 31 per cent of P5.116 million consists of charges due from government.

The POM also reported a decline in actual disbursements of the port which amounted to P1.146 million. The decrease, it was learned, was attributed to the cost cutting measures adopted by the POM this year.

One measure adopted by the POM was the revision of the system of allocating gasoline allowances to POM officials.

Under the system, cash advances for gasoline expenses were subjected to liquidation.

It was reported that under the old method, gasoline was brought in advance and stored for future use. POM said this arrangement was very expensive because it could not control the system effectively.

Another measure adopted was the sharing of expenses for electrical consumption of the Manila International Port (MIP) with other offices at the port.

CSO: 4200/544

CONSPIRACY CHARGE FILED AGAINST JOURNALIST

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Charges of "conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion" were formally filed against journalist Antonio Ma. Nieva Wednesday evening before the Quezon city fiscal's office.

In a sworn statement, members of the military accused Nieva, 38, of being chairman of the publications committee of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, a labor federation tagged by the government as a front of the Communist Party of the Philippines."

Nieva was arrested Wednesday morning with a presidential commitment order issued last April 8 by President Marcos. The PCO directed the arrest and detention of Nieva "to continue as long as demanded by the requirement of national security and until released by me or my duly authorized representatives."

Meanwhile, the National Press Club of the Philippines expressed yesterday its concern over the arrest of Nieva, one of its board of directors and "a respected journalist of long standing."

The NPC statement also requested the President to order Nieva's provisional release pending investigation of the charges against him.

The NPC, which is led by president Ben F. Rodriguez, also reminded the authorities concerned "to see to it that the lawful rights of the accused are not in any way violated."

The statement said Nieva's activities as a legitimate labor leader are known to most everybody, particularly his colleagues in the media profession. Nieva has been instrumental lately in the organization of the Brotherhood of Media Unions of which he was elected president, it said.

Nieva is a former senior deskman and columnist of the Bulletin Today and president of the Bulletin Employees Union.

A report submitted by the military said that Nieva was arrested April 13, at about 9 a.m., in front of his residence at 2061 Modesto st., Malate, Manila.

Earlier at 3:30 a.m. on the same day, Nieva's house was searched by members of the arresting unit, the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group, who presented an arrest order issued by Judge Luis Pena of the regional trial court, branch 165.

NUNS, LAYMEN RALLY, DENOUNCE RAPE OF NPA SUSPECT

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 8 Apr 83 p 36

[Text]

MANILA, April 7 (AFP) — About 100 Roman Catholic nuns and lay church workers demonstrated Wednesday against the alleged military rapists of a Communist woman suspect arrested with three other Filipinos and two West Germans March 24.

The rally took place in Davao city, Mindanao island, some 960 kilometers (600 miles) south of here. Some of the placards read, "Prosecute the Rapists of Gilda Narciso."

The suspects are being held at military headquarters at Camp Catitipan. Relatives, friends, and counsel told journalists in Davao city that they have been unable to see them.

They said Miss Narciso smuggled information to them that some of her captors allegedly had raped her.

A military spokesman at Camp Catitipan strongly denied her charges and said the prisoners are being held in decent surroundings and are being treated well. He said Miss Narciso and the three Filipinos are high-

ranking members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

One of the suspects, German Lutheran lay worker Volcker Schmidt, 41, who is being held under a presidential commitment order (PCO), was charged yesterday with subversion and conspiracy to commit rebellion, according to a report.

A PCO allows Schmidt to be held without charges for any length of time. Only the President can order his release.

The military said Schmidt is a link in the foreign funding of the CPP, specifically those coming from Dutch and West German humanitarian organizations whose funds are allegedly diverted to the CPP without the organizations' knowledge.

The other German, Dorothea Brinckmeter, 23, a student researching the church's social action programs in Mindanao, was released and returned to Germany Saturday.

CSO: 4200/544

ROLE OF RANGERS, MARINES IN DAVON VIEWED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 7 Apr 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by Jose De Vera]

[Text]

The first contingent of the 41st Scout Ranger battalion of the Army set foot on Maco, one of 23 towns of Davao del Norte, on Feb. 4. They came as peacemakers and peacekeepers.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, were lording it over the province. They had established their "invisible governments" and impose taxes upon every resident under their so-called progressive taxation system.

With the arrival of the Scout Rangers under Lt. Col. Julius Javier, residents of Maco and the 23 other towns felt assured that never again would they become "unwilling victims of circumstances."

When asked by Gen. Fabian C. Ver, Armed Forces chief of staff what outfit should be sent to Davao del Norte, Maj. Gen. Josephus Q. Ramas, Army commanding general, himself a Ranger, picked the 41st Scout Ranger

battalion, after consulting the battalion's mother unit, the 5th Infantry division under Brig. Gen. Benjamin Santos. The 41st Scout Ranger battalion is a jungle fighter outfit combat-tested in Tabon and Basilan.

Ramas handed down priority assignments which the battalion must undertake. Firstly, the opening of a corridor from Maco to facilitate access to the towns in the area.

Secondly, to reach the people down to the remotest barangays and to establish the government's presence.

On Feb. 4, 1983, the first effort to take the 37 barangays of Maco into the protective arm of the battalion was launched. Lt. Arthur Abao led a platoon as blocking force of a battalion operation in Libay-Libay, a barangay in Maco.

Abao entered the place and held a dialogue with the people. For Abao, who is a native of the place, talking with the people was a means of conveying the Army's message of compassion. He did not know that in the crowd were NPA cadres.

As Abao made his way home, some 200 NPA men on a steep bank of a winding road some 500 meters

south of the barangay ambushed him and his platoon.

At the first burst of fire, four or five of Abao's men were fatally hit. Abao was wounded, but rallied his men. The firefight went on for four hours with the NPAs shouting at the Rangers to surrender.

The Rangers definitely shouted back, saying "Walang sumusuko na Army, tuloy ang labanan." Abao's radio operator finally contacted Colonel Javier for reinforcements.

Javier dispatched four teams under Lt. Edwin Araña to reinforce the platoon and attack the ambushers from the west. Javier himself led another group to attack directly from the south. The pincer movement relieved the pressure, but Abao died later from loss of blood.

After hours of fighting, the NPAs withdrew into the forested area. They dragged along their 29 wounded and left behind

12 dead comrades. The Rangers captured 10 others, including a woman. Among the dead was the leader of the group, "kumander" Ting.

In the search-and-destroy operation that fol-

lowed, Javier picked up three NPA-trained residents of a barangay in Maco. The three led troopers to a training camp in barangay Tigpana. Several firearms were seized from the camp, along with sticks of dynamite, a telescope, flags, and a sackful of documents.

In the camp, the Rangers found dead 29 NPAs. Other dead rebels were found on the river banks.

Meanwhile, a Philippine Marine battalion was airlifted to Davao del Norte. The sweeping operation of the 41st Ranger battalion was matched with an aggressive information and "love" campaign of the civil relations team from the Army general headquarters.

As the passageways to Maco's isolated barangays were opened, the civil relations team under Capt. Edilberto Tio entered the area and informed the people that the government was bent on improving their lot.

Then on a Sunday, Feb. 27, some 5,200 residents of Maco, all former NPA supporters showed up in Maco town proper to surrender and pledge their allegiance to the government. Ramas personally accepted the surrender.

MORO LIBERATION FRONT SUSPECTED OF BOMBINGS, DEATHS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] Zamboanga City, April 14--Four persons, including a town mayor's son and nephew, died and 11 others were wounded in a series of explosions last night and early this morning here.

The southern command blamed the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for the bombings saying they were part of the terrorist operation "Walang Patawad."

Killed were Mudar Abdurajak, alias Talia Bagis, son of Mayor Hassin Talib Bagis of Panamao; Nur Amin, the mayor's nephew; a certain Amil; and one unidentified man. Abdurajak was reportedly a provincial board member of Sulu.

A report to Southern command chief Maj. Gen. Delfin Castro said the explosions occurred at 5:30 p.m. in Apartment No. 10 in the Manuel Rojo compound in Sta. Catalina, in the city outskirts; as the Gams Store and a parking lot on P. Lorenzo st.; and in front of Jones Pharmacy on Barcelona st. at 7 p.m.

Two more bombs exploded in the compound of the Zamboanga General Hospital at 5:30 a.m. today.

Four were killed in Sta. Catalina blast, while 11 were wounded in the downtown explosions.

No one was injured in the two blasts at the hospital compound this morning.

Lt. Col. Daming Unga, Jr. police station one commander of Metro Discom, reported that one bomb was recovered at 10 p.m. yesterday by police operatives at the Barbecue Plaza on Pura Brillantes st. The bomb placed in a biscuit can was retrieved and later defused by an Army bomb disposal team.

The report said that yesterday afternoon seven persons were seen in the apartment. It was not ascertained whether the three others were able to leave before the explosions, which destroyed the second floor of the building.

Military authorities said the apartment was the source of the bombs which exploded last night and early this morning.

Probers said it was possible that the bombs in the apartment were being placed with timing devices when they exploded prematurely.

Col. Rolando de Guzman, Southcom chief of intelligence, reported to General Castro that the terrorist operation was disclosed in a letter received by a barangay captain from MNLF Commander Salim of Sulu.

The letter warned the barangay official against frequenting crowded places starting April 10.

The military confirmed the bombings were part of the MNLF plot to bomb urban centers in Mindanao to be conducted by a 10-man sabotage group trained in a foreign country.

A member of the group, Mujibur Handa, was arrested last March by Southcom operatives. His arrest led to the recovery of 15 drums of potassium chloride used in the making of homemade bombs.

Handa, however, was killed in an encounter early this week, while leading a naval patrol to a terrorist hideout in this city, officials said today.

Aside from the April 4 grenade blast at Viva Restaurant here, in which 18 were wounded, the last bombing incident in this city took place on May 10, 1982. In those bombings, eight were killed and 75 were wounded. (Vic Arevalo)

CSO: 4200/544

ARMY RESCUES 140 MEN HELD HOSTAGE BY NPA

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 14 Apr 83 pp 1, 11

[Text]

TAGUM, Davao del Norte, April 13 — Some 140 employes and contractual laborers of the Paper Industry Corp. of the Philippines who were held hostages since 7 a.m. Monday by about 60 armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army in barangay Cabugawan, Sinatuan, Surigao del Sur were released 1 a.m. yesterday, military authorities here said.

Brig. Gen. Felix A. Brawner, Jr., commanding general of the First Army ranger regiment, said he was in Surigao del Sur on an inspection tour when military officials reported the incident to him.

The NPA rebels reportedly demanded ₱1 million in ransom for the release of the PICOP workers.

Brawner said he advised the PICOP officials not to give in to the demands of the NPA. Instead he said he immediately ordered elements of the First Composite Infantry battalion under Col. Roberto Manlongat to rescue the workers.

Brawner said the NPA rebels released their hostages upon learning that government troopers were surrounding them. He said that he also dispatched elements of the 41st Army Ranger battalion to track down the 60 rebels who fled to a forested area in Surigao.

Meanwhile, Maj. Benjamin Guanitas, executive officer of the First Army Ranger Regiment, said more troopers were sent to the area to reinforce the government forces there in hot pursuit of the rebels. (Ped Velasco)

A report to Col. Arturo Enrile, Task Force Scoda commander, identified the casualties as Rogelio Dalanag, Baliton barangay captain; civilian home defense force trooper Stephen Lum-bos, civilians Francisco Matondo, 22, of Baliton, and a certain Merian Supilanag, 60, of Koronadal, South Cotabato.

Wounded were Cere-la Balanga, wife of Dalanag; Framil Mantondo, 4; and a certain Rosila Zambrona, 14, all Baliton residents.

Reports said the rebels carried assorted firearms and were led by Kumander Usman Sali, Jr. of the Misuari faction of the MNLF. The rebels reportedly burned the public market and several houses including the house of Dalanag.

The paramilitary troopers led by Balanag were

outnumbered but fought the rebels for two hours.

Colonel Enrile received the report at noon yesterday while conducting a dialogue with local officials and barangay captains led by Mayor Teodorico Josol of the Tampakan municipality here.

The gunbattle cut short the dialogue which was held at the opening of the ICHDF development and village training course. The training course is the eighth to be conducted in this province and was attended by 109 civilian volunteer trainees.

Army troopers from the 46th Infantry battalion under Lt. Col. Emiliano Ferolin were dispatched to the area to go after the MNLF rebels.

Barangay Baliton was recently the subject of a petition filed by former MNLF rebel commanders who already joined the government, to be created as a separate municipality of South Cotabato.

However, the move was strongly opposed by town residents led by Mayor Enrique Yap as well as MNLF rebels still fighting in the hills. (Don P. Bentulan)

GOVERNMENT NEGLECT FUELS NPA PROPAGANDA

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 7 Apr 83 pp 1, 6

[Article by Mel Parale]

[Text] Exposing corrupt officials instead of teaching communist doctrines, is now the strategy of rebels to win over the people to their side, Maj. Gen. Josephus Q. Ramas, army chief, said yesterday.

Ramas, who was guest in the monthly dialogue of Daily Express editors with top government and private officials, said the rebels have been most effective in remote areas where government presence is weak.

"The rebels go to the extent of reviewing election promises of local officials. If a local official promised to build eight feeder roads and artesian wells and only one is built, the rebels used this as an issue," Ramas said.

Ramas termed the rebel operation as a form of "social investigation." He said the main targets of rebels are the most neglected and backward towns.

He said rebels start teaching the communist doctrines to local residents once they are fully conditioned on the failures of local governments.

Ramas warned the people against being led into believing that the New People's Army has become stronger. He said the NPA has only increased its activities but not its size.

He said the Huk movement during President Magsaysay's time was much stronger and bigger than the NPA.

The Huks could attack by the hundreds of men in an operation in the '50s; whereas the NPA could only muster four or five men in an ambush operation, Ramas said.

He said an indication the NPA cannot match the government combat force is its refusal to engage government troops in a frontal clash.

"All the rebels do now is to engage in hit-and-run tactics," the army chief said. Ramas observed that ambush-slayings scored by rebels against government troops were "due to the laxity or stupidity of commanders concerned."

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES U.S. BASE RENTAL POLICY

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 6 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Improving Relations Between RP and US"]

[Text]

THERE ARE conflicting messages behind two recent unrelated developments involving our relationship with the United States.

The first was the approval by President Reagan of a proposal redesignating the Philippines as one of the six developing countries eligible to supply duty-free sugar to the United States.

This preferential treatment for our sugar in the US augurs well for our sugar industry which, happily, continues to perk up with higher yields and increased liquidation price. With the current Philippine quota to the US annually valued at \$185,220,000, and the \$23 million that the country will save yearly in duties, there is no doubt that our sugar industry is again at the forefront of the country's dollar-earning industries.

This singular act of goodwill and reason may well spark a new initiative to enhance our relationship with the United States. But it is about time, too, that problems involving this long-tested friendship be raised for review. One of these problems involved the second recent development. This was the report that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is insisting on treating the rentals for the use of US bases in the Philippines as economic assistance, acting as though it owns these funds.

This behavior is not taken too kindly not just by President Marcos but also by many Filipinos who view this as an affront to our sense of nationhood. It is only proper for American bureaucrats to look more closely into the values of America's allies not just from the material viewpoint, but also from the wider dimension of sovereignty and dignity.

Fortunately, the administration of President Reagan offers a brighter prospect of a better relationship between the Philippines and the United States. The American leader appreciates policy-formulation within the context of another country's unique socio-economic, historic-cultural and political experiences, rather than those based on Western realities and standards.

It is hoped that in the preliminary talks between the American panel headed by Ambassador Michael Armacost and the Philippine panel led by Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez, these problems will be discussed in the most straightforward fashion characteristic of problem-solving among friends, rather than in a confrontation of minds representing opposing interests.

It would do well, perhaps, for the American panel to bear in mind that the Philippines is a true friend and ally of the United States, and as such deserves to be treated as one.

CSO: 4200/544

BUSINESS COLUMNIST ADVISES CAUTION, FORESEES PRICE HIKES

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 5 Apr 83 pp 3, 8

[Article by Eddie R. Gandionco]

[Excerpt] In my last trip to the capital region many government officials and businessmen ask this column what can we advice. The reply made is this: In general, the year 1983 is still a bad year for business. However, the last quarter will see the start of a recovery I liken it to a saying: "if winter comes can spring be far behind". And my advice is for businessmen to have patience. Do not take any risks in 1983, what with interest rates not cerain to go down including the exchange rate of the peso against the US dollar. Be patient. Adopt a wait-and-see attitude. The economy will be selective and sectorized.

This column may even add that the public will face another sharp rise in the price of most consumer products in the remaining months of 1983. Unemployment will rise: crime rates will increase sharply, especially crimes on property. Stores offices and restaurants will be in trouble, too, due to high rents impose by building owners.

Right now the world situation has changed. And so with the trade situation. We are now witnessing a gradual swing of democracies trading heavily with communists and vice-versa. This is not a sudden change. This is quite a natural way of developing international markets and exports. Our government is familiar with this. So the government should start now promoting our exports, not only to the United States, but also o Europe, Middle Eas, South and North Africa, People's Republic of China, ASEAN, and the communist countries in East Europe and the Americas. The main objective now is to encourage exports and to keep the Philippines market open both to non-communists and communists. Why not?

CSO: 4200/544

ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN, POOR BUSINESS PERFORMANCE NOTED

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 30 Mar 83 pp 3, 8

[Article by Eddie R. Gandionco]

[Excerpt] Because of the failure of the Constabulary Anti Narcotics Unit (CANU) to effectively curb drug abuse and the dangerous drugs traffic, AFP chief of staff, Gen Fabian C. Ver has replaced CANU with a bigger organization packed with powers to wage war against drug pushers and traffickers. The new force is called the Narcotics Command which is directly under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff but within the supervision of PC chief, Maj. Gen. Fidel Ramos. For short the group or command is called NARCOM.

The new narcotics command will compose the three major services of the AFP, that is, the air force, the navy, and the army/constabulary. The NARCOM is determined to break the country's well organized and all-powerful syndicates which has some government agents and operatives in their pay roll. It cannot be denied that a great many of our law enforcers are active in the distribution of drugs or are in the drugs racket. These are the saboteurs of the government's efforts to wipe out drug addiction. These are the people that every citizen must look out and report to the authorities.

The dangerous drugs traffic is a multi-billion underground industry. And it is well organized in its distribution, and in some instances well-protected by PC/INP agents and operatives, the avowed crooks in uniform. There is really a need to strengthen the fight and drive against drug abuse and the dangerous drugs traffic and it would do well for the AFP chief of staff and the PC chief to select only the most reliable, honest, and dedicated officers and men to compose the NARCOM. The misfits, or to borrow the words of President Marcos the scalawags and rotten apples among its agents and operatives should be purged.

It is said to not that none of the twelve trading firms have meet the initial government targets to create a better export environment for the Philippines. Judging from the firms performance thus far, the goal set by government or the trade and industry is still a long way from being reached. With the exception of of An Miguel and Ayala, the other trading firms have not succeeded in expanding their overseas markets, let alone carrying out larger projects such

as market diversification and the modernization of their trading firms. Their performance becomes even more disappointing in the light of a comparison with Taiwan and South Korea. The trading companies of these countries abroad have made great contributions to their respective countries trading position.

The achievements and accomplishments of the Philippines twelve trading firms abroad appears dwarfish and could hardly be termed significant from business and industry point of view and of this column. They have fallen far short of the targets or goals set for them by the trade and industry ministry and NEDA at the time of their establishment. It seems the trading firms find it hard getting started.

The twelve trading companies were set up to boost exports and put to an end the domination of foreign firms relative to the expansion of the country's exports and to assist small-and-medium scale industries/businesses to overcome their export difficulties, by setting up an international sales network of trading firms. Still, the twelve trading firms have not succeeded in helping exports, just as they have not succeeded in the other goals that were set for them by government. It appears from this column's observations that the trading firms are over reluctant to spend time and money for overseas promotion of Philippine-made products. Another is the lack of the necessary knowledge for expanding international markets. Others are conflicting interest of officers and stockholders of the trading firms. Added to this is the complaint of lukewarm support from the government agencies concerned as well as local banks and finance/investment houses to properly develop their export businesses.

Unlike other trading firms of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the country's banking system is quite weak when it comes to financing export industries. The banks do not adequately involve themselves in offering the trading firms the necessary support. Banks, particularly the universal banks, should act as trading partners of the trading companies for they are limited in their financing abilities by their real capital.

CSO: 4200/544

PDP-LABAN OPPOSES FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 30 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by Leo D. Fabular]

[Text] The Filipino Democratic Party--Lakas ng Beyan (PDP-LABAN) has denounced the recent move of the Marcos government to allow foreign investors to acquire real estate properties in the country.

PDP-LABAN chairman for the Visayas, former Congressman Antonio Cuenco, in an interview with the VISAYAN HERALD, said that the latest move of the regime to allow foreign investors to acquire real estates in the Philippines is an act which is anti-Filipino.

Cuenco said that despite claims to the contrary the proposed set up still does violence to the Philippine Constitution--"for the simple reasons that what is prohibited directly cannot be allowed indirectly."

The scheme to allow subsidiaries of foreign investors to acquire land here is a clear circumvention of the fundamental law which prohibits aliens to own real estate in the country, Cuenco pointed out.

"It is an act which constitutes a betrayal to our own country--to our own people" he declared.

"Philipinas Dapat sa Filipino" (the Philippines is for Filipinos) says the PDP LABAN stalwart.

"If and when this scheme is implemented, We Filipinos will become squatters in our own land" Cuenco argued.

Foreigners, owners of multinational companies "will in the long run become our masters and we, their slaves!" Cuenco stressed.

This is possible he said because these foreign investors have the money to buy all the lands they need even if the land commands a very high price.

Cuenco urged the Filipino people to join the PDP-LABAN in condemning the government's move.

Cuenco's reaction came after the Central Bank governor Jaime C. Laya announced the other day that the president has approved a scheme to assist foreign investors in acquiring real estate properties in the country.

In the new scheme, Laya said, multinationals can use the real estate properties for as long as they please.

Laya also said that if foreign investors want to buy plant sites as big as Palawan they can do so.

However, PDP-LABAN members here believe that if the government will allow foreign investors to buy lands as big as Palawan island it is possible that the present government would also allow foreign investors to buy the whole country itself.

"No amount of razzle-dazzle by this regime can justify this act of betrayal against its own people", Cuenco concluded.

CSO: 4200/544

ENRIQUEZ CRITICIZES PLANNED REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT BY FOREIGNERS

Cebu City VISAYAN HERALD in English 30 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by Al Alinsug]

[Text] Cebu's most expressive radio commentator has sharply reacted to the Laya proposal to allow foreign investors to own real estate properties in the Philippines.

Lawyer-commentator Miguel A. Enriquez has branded the move as "treasonous," and the act of Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya as "subversive" in last night's Saksak-Sinagol program over DYLA radio.

This is the most serious charge against the administration, Enriquez declared.

Imagine a foreigner can be allowed to buy any size of land, even so big as Palawan, Enriquez fumed.

Bulletin Today yesterday published the views of Laya quoting him as saying that a foreign investor can even buy as big a land area as the island of Palawan.

Our nation, Enriquez charged, will easily become the most ridiculous nation in the whole world. Selling our patrimony and the posterity of the Filipino people is the most ridiculous act of any government.

According to Enriquez, if this is adopted by the government Filipinos can easily become aliens in their own land. This will pave the way for Filipinos to become squatters in their native soil.

The multinationals can buy us out. They can buy Cebu, Bohol, or any province in the country, Enriquez said.

Enriquez also called this act as not only most shameful but proof of our desperation.

This is not what Rizal, Bonifacio and other Filipino heroes died for. Their blood will have been wasted when foreigners are allowed to enjoy buying our patrimony.

Enriquez said that after offering investors from Hong kong Filipino citizenship in a silver platter without visible takers here comes another com-on which is the worst proposal that has ever come out from the technocrats of this administration.

After Enriquez expressed his views on the issue callers from DYLA listeners poured in.

Among those who assailed the proposal was a veteran. Another was a concerned citizen. Still another was a youth.

All of them rose up in arms against the Laya idea.

Enriquez and Vicente Villordon another lawyer co-host of the Saksak-Sinagol commentary program pointed to the Constitution as expressly providing that only Filipinos can own real estate in the Philippines.

Saksak-Sinagol is a daily commentary aired from 7:30 8:30 p.m. from Monday to Saturday over DYLA radio station here in Cebu City.

CSO: 4200/544

MILITARY SUBDIVIDING RICE FIELDS; FARMERS APPEAL TO MARCOS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 10 Apr 83 pp 1, 6

[Text] About 100 farmers tilling the rice fields in the Fort Bonifacio military reservation in barangays Hagonoy and Upper Bicutan, Tagig, appealed yesterday to President Marcos to stop military personnel from subdividing their ricelands into homesteads.

The farmers, led by Antonio S. Alimon, Saturnino Alcantara and Sonny Domingo, said that the uniformed soldiers have been destroying their irrigation dikes (pilapil) and building houses on the fields.

The houses are allegedly rented out to employes of the Food Terminal, Inc. and other workers in the vicinity.

The original area cultivated by the farmers was over 300 hectares, they said. However, only about 200 hectares remain because of these encroachments.

They said that the soldiers had even used the name of General Fabian Ver when they took over the ricefields. When some farmers resisted, the soldiers allegedly roughed them up.

Alimon said that the rice fields had been tilled by their ancestors even before the Spanish times. Since the military reservation was established in 1921, they have been paying "taxes" to the military authorities stationed there.

At present, Alimon said, the farmers still pay P100 per hectare every year. Each family tills about two hectares of land.

Domingo cited the Agrarian Reform Law and a presidential decree, which prohibit any person, private, military or government, to turn ricelands into subdivisions or use the lands for other purposes.

However, he said that the military personnel do not seem to recognize the law. Instead, he said that they make their own laws.

Alimon said that the farmers had written to Col. Angel L. Sadang, post commander, several times but they have not received any response until now.

The farmers want to know, he said, if it is true their ricefields are exempted from the Land Reform Law because they are included in a military reservation, as the soldiers told them.

They said they are appealing to the President to decree that their ancestral ricelands be excluded from the Fort Bonifacio reservation, because this is their only source of livelihood.

The areas specified in the farmers' appeal lie just outside the periphery of Signal Enlisted Men's Village which, they said, used to be part of the ricefields of Upper Bicutan.

Meanwhile, Mayor Levi Mariano of Taguig said that the authorities in Fort Bonifacio had made moves to eject some 9,000 civilian families living in the military reservation.

The portion where the civilians live was granted to them in 1964 by Proclamation No 42, covering 190 hectares, under the "Land For The Landless" program.

The next year, Proclamation No. 462 added 330 hectares to the land grants and the Bureau of Lands gave permits to qualified settlers to enter the reservation. The subdivision, now known as Signal Village, was then called the AFP-EM's village.

In 1968, President Marcos ordered an investigation on complaints regarding the granting of the permits. On recommendation of the PARGO, the President revoked the grants.

Mariano said that the settlers, whose areas also cover portions of the National Science and Technology Authority, Camp Bagong Diwa and the Food Terminal Inc., all of which fall inside the military reservation, cannot be called "squatters."

Last year, the President formed the Fort Bonifacio Development Council, Mariano said, which is now looking into a recommendation of military authorities to relocate all the civilian settlers.

CSO: 4200/544

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ADVOCATES PROTECTING COCOA BEAN PRODUCERS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 14 Apr 83 p 1]

[Text]

Agriculture Minister Arturo R. Tanco, Jr. proposed yesterday that local producers of cocoa beans be protected and given suitable incentives to further boost production.

Tanco made the proposal to President Marcos even as the first shipment of cocoa beans of 200 tons was made the other day.

The sale was made to the British firm Cocoa Merchants Ltd., an international cocoa trader, and coursed through Philipp Brothers Oceanic, Inc.

The agriculture minister said he expects more exports in future harvests as the ministry steps up its campaign on crop diversification.

The first shipment, Tanco said, was an indication that cocoa

growers are making headway in their production targets. He said the ultimate objective is to gain self-sufficiency and reliable export capability.

Tanco said the first shipment to Hamburg proves that local commercial producers are now in a position to offer quality beans to domestic processors who still have to import all their requirements. Total cocoa bean importation amounted to about \$28 million a year.

Tanco recommended that local growers of cacao trees be given access to cheaper credits. On the part of the ministry, he said it was streamlining marketing operations and intensifying researches to develop suitable high-yielding varieties and package technology.

Commercial growing of cacao was initiated as an intercrop with coconut trees using seedlings imported from Malaysia. The largest plantation of cacao trees is a 960-hectare farm in Guihing, Davao del Sur, which started growing trees in 1979.

Mindanao is considered a suitable area for cacao plantation because of its even rainfall throughout the year. As of 1981, some 4,860 hectares in Mindanao have already been planted to cacao trees.

The local demand for cocoa beans is influenced by processors engaged in the production of cocoa beverages, food preparations and cocoa butter and cocoa powder for export.

CSO: 4200/544

EROSION, OVERUSE OF FERTILIZER THREATENS FOOD PRODUCTION

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 Apr 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] Extensive soil erosion and excessive use of inorganic fertilizers are threatening the food production program of the country, the National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC) under the Ministry of Human Settlements said yesterday.

Dr. Celso R. Roque, NEPC executive director, said that almost 75 per cent of the entire alienable and disposable lands in the country are badly eroded.

Thirteen provinces (Batangas, Cebu, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Batanes, Bohol, Masbate, Abra, Iloilo, Cavite, Rizal, Capiz, and Maninduque) have half of their land areas heavily eroded.

Specifically, the NEPC said, about 10.08 million hectares of the total 13.27 million hectares of arable lands have been lost to erosion.

The NEPC said the country has a total land area of 30 million hectares, 16.7 million hectares of which are classified as forest lands.

Roque added that because of the use of high-yielding grains varieties in agricultural production, the effects of erosion are not noticed. However, he warned that grains and supply shortages could become a reality in a few years.

The NEPC reported that the soil erosion problem has resulted in the deterioration of agricultural lands; increase of flood occurrence; reduced water supply, siltation of reservoirs, canals, and rivers; destruction of infrastructure projects; and depletion of wildlife and other natural resources.

Roque cited the excessive siltation in Ambukloa which has reduced its expected life span from 62 years to 32 years. He added that it takes nature 100 years or more to build one inch of topsoil.

The NEPC pointed out that although physical causes like rainfall, wind, and slope of land contribute to soil erosion, the primary causes are man-made, like deforestation, overgrazing, and over-cropping.

The NEPC also said excessive use of inorganic fertilizers by farmers affect the soil negatively by lessening its humus content, decreasing soil porosity and waterholding capacity. This inevitably results in higher soil acidity, greater leaching, and erosion.

In addition, the NEPC said, nitrates from fertilizers carried by waters result in lake eutrophication, methemoglobinemia (blue babies), and may react with aminos from drugs and food flavorings to form carcinogenic (cancer-causing), teratogenic (causing birth defects), and mutagenic (causing genetic change) substances.

Also, the NEPC said, atmosphere pollution also results from the indiscriminate use of fertilizers, especially nitrogen fertilizers affecting the ozone later.

CSO: 4200/544

EDITORIAL SCORES EXPLOITATION OF DROUGHT SITUATION

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Mindanao Food Aid: Out With Politics"]

[Text]

THE CABINET decision to provide rice and corn subsidies to farmers in drought-stricken areas in Mindanao should discourage unscrupulous persons from exploiting the situation.

Unscrupulous individuals out to make a fast buck have always taken advantage of the misfortunes of others. The drought in Mindanao would be an ideal situation for the hustlers. But the initiative was taken away from the deceitful businessmen and individuals when the Cabinet decided to grant quick loans and subsidies to the farmers to replace their destroyed crops and wilted seeds.

The Cabinet agreed to harness provincial governors and city mayors in the distribution of the subsidies to facilitate relief operations.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata said that the governors and mayors have a better grasp of the situation in their localities. So they will be asked to certify who among the farmers are entitled to the food loans. This is well and good. The danger, however, is in the propensity of politicians to play politics every time at every opportunity.

The grant of food loans to the farmers is an ideal situation for the local elective officials to look good. It is also an opportunity for them to reward their followers and friends and wreak vengeance on their enemies. It is not to be forgotten that the best exponents of personal politics are the local politicians.

For the sake not only of the farmers but also of all the people, the local executives should be warned not to play politics with the subsidies to the farmers or with any other relief operations.

If the local politicians are allowed to play politics with the relief operations, the NPAs and the subversives could not hope for a better situation to exploit.

During national calamities and times of need, political considerations must be cast aside in favor of national welfare.

DROUGHT AID FOR FARMERS REPORTED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 7 Apr 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Cabinet decided yesterday to provide rice and corn subsidies to farmers in drought-stricken areas in Mindanao.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata said that provincial governors and town mayors will be harnessed in the distribution of the subsidies to facilitate relief measures in the area.

Virata made the announcement after the regular meeting of the Cabinet and the Executive Committee at the Executive House.

He said the provincial governors and town mayors, along with barangay officials, have a better grasp of the situation in their localities.

Virata also said they will certify who among

the farmers are entitled to the food loans based on the guidelines set by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Food Authority.

"We have enough supply of rice," Virata said, adding that the only problem is to determine who deserve to get the rice aid.

Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco told the Cabinet that rice and corn feeds of most farmers intended for the next planting season have wilted or have been eaten away by pests.

Because of this, Virata said, rice and corn feeds will be sold to the farmers at half price to be repaid after harvest time.

To be initially sold to the farmers at the subsidized retail rate is white corn which is the edible variety.

At noon today, Virata will meet with provincial governors and town mayors of the affected areas in Mindanao to discuss the mechanics of the rice subsidy.

The Prime Minister reiterated the Cabinet's earlier stand rejecting the proposal to place the drought-stricken areas in Mindanao under a state of calamity because the conditions do not warrant it.

He said it is only when the losses to life and property are so extensive like those caused by destructive earthquake and typhoons that a state of calamity is usually declared. "Under this situation, we have to forego with regular government procedures to facilitate relief measures," Virata said.

CSO: 4200/544

MARCOS RELEASES FUNDS FOR DROUGHT RELIEF

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 Apr 83 pp 1, 16

[Article by Willie Ng]

[Text]

President Marcos ordered the release of ₱75 million yesterday for drought victims in Mindanao and the Visayas — ₱35 million to buy rice and corn for food and ₱40 million to buy rice, corn, coffee, cacao, and vegetable seedlings to be loaned to farmers.

Victims are qualified for food loans upon certification by farm technicians, to be cross-certified by the barangay captains — the certifications to be approved by the provincial governor or his representative.

The National Food Authority, upon being presented with the certificates, will give one cavan of rice per month per family. This will be payable by the coming harvest or the second harvest.

In the case of sugar workers, like those in Negros and Iloilo, food loans will be guaranteed by the sugar plan-

ters and will be paid through salary deductions. The Philippine Sugar Commission will assist the NFA and the Ministry of Agriculture.

On the seedlings for the next planting, these are to be sold to farmers under a subsidy plan where farmers would pay only half of the cost.

Mr. Marcos released the money after a meeting with 20 governors from Mindanao and the Visayas. Prime Minister Cesar Virata and members of the Cabinet attended the meeting.

The President asked the governors and the assemblymen of the drought-stricken areas to supervise the coordinating centers in rendering relief to the victims.

Meanwhile, National Food Authority Minister Jesus Tanchanco, back from a survey of drought areas on

orders of Mr. Marcos, declared there was no starvation in the south, adding that Mindanao would be the last to suffer starvation.

Claiming that figures on victims were exaggerated, he said: "The important thing is first to isolate the people in the drought areas from the refugees or people affected by the fighting."

His ministry has released more than 10,000 cavans of rice in the form of loans to farmers, mostly in the Davao provinces and South Cotabato.

Tanchanco and Minister of Agriculture Arturo Tanco said 23 provinces in Mindanao and the Visayas were affected by the dry spell.

NEW YORK (PNA) — The dry spell which has hit southern Philippines may be traced to a Pacific-wide atmospheric disturbance that has caused torrential rains in the US West Coast, drought in Australia, the death of millions of oceanic birds, and havoc to Peruvian fishermen.

The New York Times described these events in the Pacific as "the most intense and extensive disruption of oceans and atmosphere since detailed records began to be kept early in this century."

The atmospheric disruption was traced by US scientists to the slackening of the trade winds. As a result of this disturbance, the whole eastern and southern Pacific, from Alaska to Chile in the American continent, Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines in the western Pacific have been affected.

TAGUM, Davao del Norte, April 8 — An interval of brief and scattered heavy rain came unexpectedly to this drought-stricken province yesterday afternoon as Agrarian Reform Minister Conrado Estrella distributed thousands of certificates of land transfers and homestead patents to farmers and settler-beneficiaries during a regional farmers' forum at the University of Mindanao gymnasium here.

Estrella keynoted the big gathering of farmers who came from various provinces in the southern Mindanao area. He personally conveyed the assurance of President Marcos that the government will extend all-out assistance to farmers affected by the long drought.

He said that all Masagana farmers whose crops were destroyed by the drought will be assisted through restructured farms loans and food loan grants.

All crops insured by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. damaged by

the drought will also be paid, he said.

Estrella exhorted the over 5,000 farmer-beneficiaries to never sell their ownership rights over their newly acquired lands. Such an act is a betrayal of President Marcos who emancipated farmers from the bondage of feudalism, Estrella said. (Ped Velasco)

At least 166,329 farming families in the Visayas and Mindanao suffered heavy crop losses as a result of what is believed to be the worst drought to hit the country since 1959.

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) disaster preparedness and relief service estimated total crop losses at about ₱150.3 million in 26 provinces, based on reports received from PNRC chapters.

A total of 189,186 hectares of rice, corn, and other crops were reportedly affected by the drought, while 57,795 hectares were reportedly damaged totally.

Earlier, National Food Authority Administrator Jesus Tanchanco cited reports from Mindanao officials that only 10 to 15 per cent of farm areas were affected by the drought.

The PNRC said that among the hardest hit was North Cotabato where 10,757 hectares of corn land and 3,339 hectares of riceland were affected.

Damage was also reportedly extensive in Bukidnon.

Other areas heavily hit by the drought were Masbate, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Bohol,

Negros Oriental, South Leyte, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Gingoog, Ozamis city, South Cotabato, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Lanao del Norte, Davao city, Davao del Sur, Lanao del Sur, and Surigao del Sur.

Last Wednesday, the PNRC airlifted 57,750 pounds of rolled oats and 49,500 pounds of milk powder for drought victims in Davao city, Davao Sur, Davao Oriental, Cotabato, Zamboanga city, and Zamboanga Sur.

While the damage and crop losses were extensive, Director Vic P. Majarocon of the PNRC disaster preparedness and relief service said that the drought situation cannot as yet be considered an emergency case.

The relief goods being sent to the areas are intended for persons displaced by armed conflicts who may also happen to be drought victims, Majarocon said.

CEBU CITY, April 8 — About 62 per cent of rice and corn plantations in Central Visayas have been damaged by the seven-month-long drought, according to a survey of the regional agriculture ministry office here.

In Cebu alone, 8,000 hectares of about 11,000 hectares of land planted to corn had been totally or partially destroyed by the dry spell.

The survey report disclosed that in the entire region covering Cebu, Negros Oriental, Bohol, and Siquijor, more than 26,000 hectares of the total 43,200 hectares of lands planted to rice and

corn had been totally or partially damaged by the drought. This represents 62 per cent of the total land area planted to the crops.

About 162 hectares out of a total of 670 hectares of ricelands in Cebu had also been damaged, the report said.

The Agriculture Ministry estimated that the region will reduce its rice and corn production by 1,229,656 cavans which is worth ₱91 million.

Bohol province was reportedly hardest hit. About 8,784 hectares out of a total of 9,466 hectares planted to rice have reportedly been destroyed.

Bohol is considered the rice granary of Central Visayas. Its rice yield is expected to drop by about 500,000 cavans because of the drought. (Hilario Embrado)

LUCBAN, Quezon April 8 — A two-month drought in this town at the foot of Mt. Banahaw is threatening to destroy the 200-hectare vegetable plantation here.

Mayor Armando Racelis said about 15,000 vegetable growers will be adversely affected if the dry spell continues.

Racelis said that the town usually supplies Metro Manila with about 200 jeeploads of radish, pechay, stringbeans, bichuelas, squash, and root crops. Now, he said, the vegetable harvest is only adequate for local consumption.

It is widely believed that the drought has been compounded by the rapid denudation of forest lands in Mt. Banahaw. (Momoy Cardenas)

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION RADIO COMMENTATOR--Inday Nita Cortes Daluz, a well known radio personality and former station manager of DYRB, will again be heard in the airplanes starting this coming Wednesday. Daluz will be handling the same programs which she anchored at her former station DYRB. This time, however, it will be over DYRF. Inday Nita will handle a newscast daily from 6:55 to 7:15 in the morning to be followed by "Kung Ikaw ang Pangutan on" from 7:15 to 7:30. From 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. Daluz will handle the program which she made popular during her DYRE days "Radio Clinic". In this program prominent medical practitioners like Dr. Potenciano Larazabal, Dr. Pablo Abella, Drs. Emilia Dacalos, Aman do Ariola and others will participate in the program. DYRF was the radio station which took Inday Nita's services after DYRB was allegedly bought by a crony of President Marcos. Other radio stations were allegedly warned for possible closure if they hired the lady commentator who had been exposing in her programs the injustices committed by people in the government and the military which included graft and corruption, abuses and others. Inday Nita was among those incarcerated in connection with the freedom march rally some few years back which led to the closure of radio station DYRE. DYRE made a live coverage of the march. [Text] [Cebu City VISAYA HERALD in English 5 Apr 83 pp 1, 14]

GASPAR DENIES SUBVERSION CHARGES--Detained subversion suspect Carlito "Karl" Gaspar declared his innocence yesterday on charges of rebellion and illegal possession of ammunition filed against him by military authorities. Gaspar, regarded as an intellectual by student leaders in Davao city, spoke for the first time yesterday to mediamen since his arrest in Bolton district, Davao city, last March 26. Gen. Fabian C. Ver, AFP chief of staff, allowed the interview after representations made by mediamen covering the defense beat. Gaspar, 35, an anthropologist, said his military captors did not harm him physically. He said he has "tremendous respect and appreciation" for the soldiers who picked him up in Davao and brought him to Manila. Assisted by his lawyer Rodolfo Dolor Mateo, Gaspar admitted that he had travelled extensively to various countries, including Nicaragua, El Salvador, and other Latin American nations where he conferred with various religious groups. He said he was often in the company of Infanta, Quezon bishop Julio Labayan, who was then national director of the National Secretariat for Social Action. Gaspar said he is the head of the resources Development Foundation (RDF), a Davao city-based private development foundation, suspected by the military of being a front organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

He said foreign groups have been giving regular donations to the RDF and other religious groups in the country "to support justice and development projects." Among the foreign organizations from whom monetary support was sought, he said, are the Bread for the World (BFW) based in West Germany, the Central Agency for Jesuit Financing of Development Programs based in Holland, the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development based in London, and the AGPHI based in West Germany. Two days before Gaspar's arrest, four other suspects were arrested in the same house where Gaspar was captured. They were Volcker Martin Jurgen Schmidt, a West German national; Ana Mae Morillos, 24; Jethro Dionisio, 23; and Gilda Narciso, 38. Gaspar said that on the day of his arrest, he was "merely delivering some letters intended for friends in Germany to be hand-carried by Schmidt" and did not expect to run into the military. Gaspar said he started travelling abroad in 1976 to attend conferences, seminars, and to meet with ecumenical associations. "I was in Europe from January to February of this year to attend the meeting of the Ecumenical association of Third World theologians," he said. The meeting was attended by Catholic and Protestant theologians from Asia, Africa and Latin America, Gaspar said. The Filipino participants shared their experience in the work of justice and development in the Philippines, he said. The military said, however, that through his travels, Gaspar was able to seek financial outlays obtained under seemingly legitimate projects but which could have been diverted to the CPP. Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile allowed Gaspar's counsel, his mother Josefina Morante, and his sister Beatrice G. Perez, to visit the detainee last Saturday. Cases of conspiracy to commit rebellion and illegal possession of ammunition were filed last April 7 against Gaspar. Gaspar was brought from Davao city to Bago Bantay in Quezon city to appear for the hearing on Thursday of the habeas corpus petition filed for him before the Supreme Court. Gaspar said he has three lawyers, former Senator Jose W. Diokno, whom he considers "a long, long friend, Mateo, and Davao-based lawyer Billy Aportales. [Text] [Manila BULLETING TODAY in English 11 Apr 83 pp 1, 14]

CRIMES AGAINST PILGRIMS--Whether Christian or Muslim, pilgrimages have a way of drawing crooks as honey attracts flies. Because the annual pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca has come around once again, fast-talking confidence men have been reportedly busy victimizing would-be "hadjis" in Mindanao and Sulu. Which has impelled Admiral Romulo Espaldon, minister of Muslim affairs and concurrently chairman of the Philippine Pilgrimage Authority, to warn prospective pilgrims against dealing with unauthorized individuals "for their holy visit to Jeddah." Reports reaching Espaldon claim that individuals operating separately in various municipalities in Muslim areas in the South posing as PHILPA agents with fake identification cards have victimized quite a number of well-off but unlettered pilgrims. Espaldon urges Muslims planning a trip to the Middle East to transact business directly with the Ministry of Muslim Affairs, the Philippine Pilgrimage Authority or the different Philippine Amanah Bank offices in their areas. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Apr 83 pp 6, 12]

CSO: 4200/544

'POST' EDITORIAL VIEWS RECENT ELECTION RESULTS

BK200331 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "People Have Given Very Clear Mandate"]

[Text] The people have spoken, loud and clear, and their voice should be heard in every corner of the country. Those who had hoped that the uprising of 1973 would usher in democracy overnight were wrong since it takes time for ideas to sink into the grassroots, so much so the people of a country slowly begin to realize the power of the ballot box and how it affects their individual and family lives. History of the older democracies makes this very plain. The French Revolution produced Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, not instant democracy; the American civil war did not produce instant integration.

During the stewardship of Prof Sanya Thammasak both the students and officials from the Interior Ministry went to the countryside to conduct "teach-ins" about democracy. Despite all this effort, the election conducted in 1975 produced nearly 50 political parties and M.R. Khukrit Pramot took over as prime minister with a coalition government formed of about 18 political parties--an impossible situation as it later proved to be.

A decade has gone by since the uprising--with one year wasted--for the people of Thailand to reveal their increasing political consciousness and their willingness to take part in the political process of the country. When Interior Minister Sitthi Chirarot declared yesterday that the voter turnout was 53 per cent, we would consider it the highest percentage the nation has ever seen. Technically, the figure is below that of February 26, 1957, elections conducted by late Police Gen Phao Sriyanon with late Field Marshal P. Phibunsongkhram as prime minister. That election was never considered straightforward and was clearly rigged and "parchutists" must have accounted for nearly half the ballots cast.

Even blase Bangkokians turned up in large numbers improving the turnout from 19.45 per cent in 1979 to 33.44 per cent--a magnificent performance considering the supercilious nature of those who dwell in the capital city. The trend is very clear that democracy is taking roots in this country because of the steadily growing political awareness of the people. With a majority of the people going to the polls, the coalition government that will be formed has the distinct advantage of having the imprimatur of the people.

Even more important is how the people voted. In a stentorian voice they have expressed their strong displeasure at the number of political parties contending at the polls. Four political parties did not win a single seat. The three top political parties won 219 of the 324 seats in the House of Representatives; the next three totaled only 68 seats; the future of the 25 independents who won is not yet known. The top three political parties, Social Action, Chat Thai and Democrat in that order, registered big improvements on their precious performance--with the Chat Thai Party registering the best and unbelievable gain of 89.4 per cent.

These figures again show that voters did not cast their ballots with casual preference for names they have known for some time or because they have heard the candidate's name somewhere. There is no question that voters understood their responsibility, had a knowledge of which candidate belonged to which party and what that party stood for. There seems to have been a healthy and genuine realization among the voters that they want to take part in the political development of the country and its future because every step the government takes affects their daily lives.

The figures we have quoted are nothing short of astounding considering that both the parties and the voters had only one month's notice for the elections. The House was dissolved on March 19 and the parties had more difficulties than the voters, because they had to raise campaign funds, hold rallies and do the canvassing. The voters had some difficulties too because they had to make their choice, as they did this time, according to the platforms of the different parties.

On Monday, Thailand took a huge leap toward democracy in that the voters did not shrug their shoulders and silently think that a coup d'etat would overthrow the government. They made it clear that they wanted a good government, composed of as few parties as possible so that there could be stability in the country and while the routine life could go on, with a responsible government taking care of the larger issues for their benefit.

If we may encapsulate what the people seem to be saying, it would be: "We have chosen the future government and the parties which should run it. Let that government do what we have entrusted it to do."

CSO: 4200/550

PAPER URGES SUPPORT FOR PREM GOVERNMENT

BK071200 Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 6 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Do Not Be Frightened With the Border Situation"]

[Text] Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon told newsmen during an interview at Government House yesterday morning [5 April] that the situation along the Thai border was still tense and unreliable. He urged the people to pay more attention because it might affect our national stability. The prime minister said he was confident that our soldiers are ready to defend the border and proud of the Thai border troops who deserve our moral support and admiration for their willingness to sacrifice even their lives for the defence of the country.

General Prem was so concerned that he had to call commanders of the three armed forces for constant meetings to keep himself informed of new developments.

Meanwhile, Maj Narongdet Nanthaphothidet, commander of the 2d Battalion of the 21st Infantry Regiment, who survived the clash at Phnom Chat and Phnom Pra in which five soldiers under his command were killed, said: "The Thai people can feel confident that the Thai border defence forces will never allow the enemy to encroach upon our territory." He also expressed his concern over the situation, which could become more violent.

The prime minister is obviously worrying about the country's sovereignty being blatantly challenged by the neighboring countries.

It would be appropriate for the country's high-level military commanders to thoroughly review the situation and find effective measures to repulse the foreign intruders who are challenging Thailand's independence and territorial integrity, such as returning fire or even sending F-5 fighters to bomb the Vietnamese bases, as well as through a diplomatic offensive and prompt actions in international politics.

Our brave soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the defence of our land during this battle must be praised by the people throughout country, for they have done their duty heroically and made the biggest sacrifice that a man can ever make in his lifetime.

The concern expressed by the commander of the 2d Battalion of the 21st Infantry Regiment over the aggravation of the situation is worth everyone's consideration. He was the one who led his subordinates to fight the aggressors and he has been a participant in the situation long enough to make the right assessment.

As for the people, they should not only follow the situation closely, as requested by the prime minister, but they must also be steady and must not be overly frightened by the situation.

They can trust the Thai Armed Forces, which are now doing their primary duty of defending national sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Thai soldiers who are willing to sacrifice their lives for the country and people are capable of bringing an end to the situation.

Let us give the opportunity and time to the present caretaker government to work fully and freely in dealing with the situation created by a handful of Vietnamese and Heng Samrin soldiers without declaring "the state of emergency" that can further aggravate the situation and benefit certain groups of individuals.

The lessons learned from many underdeveloped countries remind us that if the people are divided and frightened, which could be the result of pressure created by those who are seeking power in the country, a knight on a white horse often appears to quell the upheaval. Peace will then return to the country temporarily, but dictatorship has been established permanently.

CSO: 4207/102

EDITORIAL SAYS KHUKRIT WISE TO APPROACH PREM

BK190236 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 19 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Postelection Strategy Gets a Little Clearer"]

[Text] Time was when the Democrat Party had a stranglehold on Bangkok but that tradition was burst wide open in the 1979 elections when it won a lone seat in the capital city with the Social Action Party [SAP] barely making a dent in the Prachakon Thai Party's sweep. The trend was not reversed yesterday but both the Democrats and SAP made a strong showing cutting down the number of seats which Samak Sunthonwet Party will hold in Bangkok. Chat Thai Party, a key member of the erstwhile coalition government has its base in the provinces and all indications were that it was making a good showing.

But what seemed to emerge from the initial figures was that the soothsayers were right and that the composition of the future House of Representatives will not be far too different from the one that has been dissolved. Without getting into the judicial problems of what will happen after April 22 when the provisional clauses of the Constitution expire, the trend early last night was that there will be a lot of bargaining going on between the parties with the largest number of seats in the House producing another coalition.

This trend justifies many of the moves that have been made and many of the fears that have been voiced in the political circles about post-election strategy. Supreme Commander Gen Saiyut Koetphon who had initially created some jitters, changed his mind on the day before elections to say that the military will not attempt to topple the next government as he had feared earlier. This coincides with our own reasoning that a viable coalition government, single-mindedly dedicated to solving the problems of the country, will have the backing of all pressure groups.

Social Action Party leader, M. R. Khukrit Pramot, has also taken steps toward formulating some sort of a post-election strategy. His visit to caretaker Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon yesterday, election day, was most welcome if there were any left-over jitters. As the longest-serving prime minister since the student uprising of 1973, Prem has been able to hold together a coalition government in place although he had plenty of troubles in doing so.

Prem has earned himself a reputation of a neutral person who is not power-hungry but wants to do his best in the interests of the country. Possibly his dissolution of the House and the calling of snap elections, would be called at some future date a wise move, since the defeat of the amendments to the Constitution in the third reading might have gathered storm clouds over the nation. The primary problem during the immediate postelection days will be that power-hungry politicians who put self-interest above the interests of the people would try to wheedle their way into the coalition.

This is where, we think, Khukrit made a wise gesture in the timely approach he made to Prem. The nation is confident that Prem has no over-riding self-interest and, under him it is highly unlikely that parties with ulterior motives will be allowed to join a coalition. A very tough job awaits the next government but judgment has to be reserved until a coalition is finally put together and approved by the House of Representatives.

CSO: 4200/549

THAILAND

ATHIT COMMENTS ON SITUATION AT KAMPUCHEAN BORDER

BK091510 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 9 Apr 83

[Text] Army Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek has said that the situation along the Thai-Kampuchean border will improve if the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin force will stop its operations and ill intentioned incidents, and cease sending in reinforcements. This is because Thailand did not create the situation; its actions have been to safeguard its sovereignty on its own territory in accordance with its rights. General Athit said the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin side's offensive against the resistance elements is an affair which takes place in its own territory and, thus, Thailand will not concern itself with it. He said the Thai Armed Forces, including civilian volunteers and policemen, are always on the alert to defend against all forms of aggression against and violations of Thailand's sovereignty.

Asked how Thailand will retaliate against the Vietnamese-Heng Samrin side in light of the loss of one of its aircraft, General Athit said the information available now is that an air force plane crashed in Surin. The air force commander will explain the cause of the crash later. Therefore, he could not say now why the plane had crashed.

He said that, as a matter of government policy, the army, through the 1st Arm Region and army divisions responsible for the border, has clearly spelled out plans for retaliation at the border: all of our forces are ready to cope with every situation.

CSO: 4207/102

KRIANGSAK CRITICIZES CURRENT POLICY ON KAMPUCHEA

BK080200 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Apr 83 p 3

[Text] Former Prime Minister General Kriangsak Chamanan yesterday said that the Thai Armed Forces should remain aloof from the on-going fighting on the Kampuchean side of the border and not "play with fire."

At the same time he criticized the United Nations' resolution which calls for an unconditional withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. General Kriangsak described the resolution as ineffective and called for the UN to offer some "elbow room" to the Vietnamese.

He made the statements in reply to questions during a press conference at the Dusit Thani Hotel yesterday morning where he introduced his National Democratic Party's [NDP] candidates for election.

Later in the day, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila said he could not understand why General Kriangsak was complaining about the UN revolution because the general himself had initiated it.

At the press conference, General Kriangsak said that though he saw the current fighting as Kampuchea's internal problem, there was a possibility of an incursion into Kampuchea by Thai forces, but only as a last resort for national defence and security.

In such an event, he said, the Thai Armed Forces should advance deep into Kampuchea until the west bank of the Mekong River and establish a frontier buffer zone.

He said that as a former supreme commander, he was confident the country's armed forces would be able to make such an incursion but advised that the military must first be sure that they are absolutely ready.

He also said he believes a political settlement of the Kampuchea problem can be achieved but urged the United Nations to reconsider its resolution to see whether it is realistic and practical enough to bring peace to the region.

He said the call for a total Vietnamese military withdrawal prior to any negotiated settlement would always be unacceptable to both Hanoi and the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh.

The right approach, he explained, would be to give all parties concerned in the conflict alternatives and some room to manoeuvre--something which the UN resolution lacks.

Thailand will have to take decisive military action if (despite being given alternatives) the Vietnamese still refuse to come to the negotiating table, General Kriangsak added.

The NCP leader also warned the Thai Government not to yield to the dictates of "others" in dealing with the current Kampuchean conflict.

In an apparent reference to other members of the ASEAN, General Kriangsak said that unlike Thailand these "others" were not at the frontline or near the area of conflict and therefore were inclined to "tell us to do the things we don't want to do."

Later, at a rally in Khlong San, Thon Buri, Foreign Minister AMC Sitthi said he failed to see the reason for General Kriangsak's call for a review of the UN resolution since it had been initiated by General Kriangsak himself.

He said there is a way to find a solution to the Kampuchean problem but the former prime minister "fails to see it." ACM Sitthi did not elaborate but instead said: "I have no wish to start criticizing my former boss (General Kriangsak) now."

CSO: 4200/549

PAPER LINKS KAMPUCHEAN BORDER, INTERNAL POLITICS

BK121154 Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 12 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "The Kampuchean Border Problem Must Be Settled Before Elections"]

[Text] The army commander in chief said the question as to when the Kampuchean border problem would end must be answered by Vietnam and the Heng Samrin regime, because they created the problem. This is partially true, but not completely.

The Kampuchean border incident has had a major impact and placed pressure on the internal political situation. No one can deny that it is necessary to "settle" our internal political situation and put it in good order should the tension at the border continue to escalate.

This is because it would be almost impossible for us to cope with external pressure if our internal political situation is not calm.

Anyway, let us look at the problem from another angle.

Some people have wondered why a major fortification like Sihanoukborei fell so easily and why the deployment of Vietnamese tanks close to the Thai border at Phnom Pra mountain took place so swiftly.

People have questioned whether Thai units operating along the border had reported earlier to their authorities about such a conventional warfare move.

Some people have questioned whether Thailand's resistance in the hand-to-hand combat at Phnom Pra was as tough as it should be.

In the wake of the reports about the deployment of a large number of Vietnamese tanks close to the Thai border, why have major weapons which can stop such a military advance by the other side, such as the rocket company based in Saraburi, which is in charge of handling the TOW and Dragon missiles, not been moved to defend the border?

Tactically speaking, is decisive action necessary in order to settle the problem immediately, once and for all? The Redeye missiles brought in by the Supreme Command as reinforcements and the call by former Prime Minister

Gen Kriangsak Chamanan that we should retaliate and achieve peace for the border region, are worth consideration.

The point is whether it is necessary to urgently and decisively settle the border problem, which will only worsen our precarious internal situation, or whether it is proper to allow the border problem to linger on like this with the only measures taken intended to contain the areas of the war.

Several leading politicians expressed concern that our internal political situation, which already has its problems, would be exposed to a high risk of danger should the problem at the border continue until elections or after elections.

We believe that it is essential for the military and field units in the border area to try to alleviate the border situation. Their efforts must be backed up by international political and diplomatic channels as well.

There is no need whatsoever to let the situation linger on like this until elections. Although Vietnam and the Heng Samrin regime created the problem, there is ample room for us to adopt political and military tactics which will end the problem, there is ample room for us to adopt political and military tactics which will end the problem decisively.

It is hoped therefore, that the problem at the Kampuchean border will be settled before the elections and that there will be no excuse whatsoever for any action which would be an obstacle to our process of democracy.

CSO: 4207/102

THAILAND

'POST' ON MEDIA COVERAGE OF BORDER SITUATION

BK080254 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "To Let Facts Speak Can Only Be of Help"]

[Text] Almost three years ago, a regiment of Vietnamese soldiers were given a mission of attacking Thailand. They planned carefully, and sprang their attack, moving quickly across the border from Kampuchea. Within hours, the Thai Armed Forces were responding to this cross-border assault on Thailand's sovereignty forcefully and professionally. Vietnamese who thought they were going to hold areas of this country for five days were driven back across the frontier within a day. They died by the dozens. Five were captured alive. Our territory had been protected in a manner of which we all could be--and were--proud.

The rest of the world learned of this in the only manner they could. Foreign and Thai newsmen working or foreign news media rushed to Prachin Buri Province and the border area to cover the story. Working without professional restraint, they reported what they saw and what they heard and the rest of the world learned that our nation was under attack. In various ways, most of the world came to our side, with actions that ranged from speeded-up U.S. military arms deliveries to words of condemnation of the cowardly Vietnamese attack.

It was an object lesson. Two days ago, our Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila said that newsmen should be allowed to visit border areas now to report on Vietnam's newest attacks. Their reports would not only be more believable when accompanied by eye-witness accounts by trained newsmen, photographers and cameramen, they would be better. They would contain the details that inevitably are missing from the dry official communiques issued far from the scenes of battle.

Thus far in the latest Vietnamese assaults, newsmen of all nationalities have been effectively barred from the combat areas. Our authorities in charge of securing our nation at the Kampuchea border give two reasons: national security and the personal security of the newsmen. The first reason can be controlled by demanding that newsmen not report details of immediate intelligence use by Hanoi. Any professional newsman will comply with this, no matter of his country of origin. The second does not apply. Newsmen covering combat do not expect any special protection; few if any, in fact, would

be comfortable accepting it. As in 1980, they wish to cover the border story on their own, at their own risk. They are, after all, volunteers, with no interest beyond doing their jobs.

We therefore urge our authorities, at this time, to revert to the regulations of 1980. The fact is that Vietnam is committing acts of willful aggression against Thailand, and newsmen will report that fact around the world. We have nothing to hide. Thailand is the victim, not the criminal, and the more people in the world who know that from professionally trained reporters the better. Vietnam is the country which bars reporting from sensitive areas of its colony, Kampuchea, for Vietnam has much to hide and much to be ashamed of.

Events at the border should be disseminated as widely and as quickly and as believably as possible. One of the many ways to encourage this is to lift the ban on professional newsmen operating inside our military lines at the Kampuchea border. Then Thai and foreign newsmen alike can be free to add even more facts, of interest to our nation and to the world, and even better contradict the incredible stream of propaganda from Hanoi.

CSO: 4200/549

THANAT KHOMAN ON FIGHTING AT KAMPUCHEAN BORDER

BK090800 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 9 Apr 83 p 6

[By Dr Thanat Khoman]

[Text] Once again the Vietnamese have done it.

After tendering a withered olive branch for a dialogue between ASEAN and, on their side, Vietnam and Laos, omitting the puppet Heng Samrin regime, they struck hard against the Kampuchean resistance encampments on the western border of Kampuchea. They bore down on civilians, mostly women and children, with thousands of troops, Soviet guns, tanks and poison gas.

The Vietnam-Soviet slaughter syndicate is operating with ruthless efficiency, causing hundreds of casualties among innocent, defenceless Kampucheans and tens of thousands of survivors to flee to Thailand for safety.

These are the realities of the Kampuchean conflict: Vietnamese military intervention in and occupation of that unfortunate land and Soviet supplies of deadly weapons to slaughter people. Only callous people with hardly any ethics would dare to blatantly approve of these barbarous feats, wishing the perpetrators to stay on and commit further depredations.

The contrast of the offer of a dialogue between ASEAN and the two Marxist states of Indochina is characteristic of Vietnamese diplomacy, which tries to dupe the outside world about its flexibility. A few were effectively hooked and became excited by what they believed to be a change of tune of the part of Vietnam. More perspicacious people, however, saw in it only a tactical ploy in the true style of Vietnamese duplicity with no significant modification of Vietnam's fundamental attitude: the conquest and disguised annexation of Kampuchea, similar to the situation in Laos.

There again, while an overwhelming number of nations strenuously oppose the hegemonistic and expansionist attempts by Vietnam, a rare colonial-minded Westerner, feeling the nostalgia of lost colonies of the past, seems to be inclined to pass on the erstwhile colonial system of Indochina to the Vietnamese heir apparent. That would fit in very well with the latter's scheme to set up, under its aegis, the so-called Federation of Indochina. There is

no reason for us to acquiesce in the subjugation of Kampuchea by Vietnam, which should not be allowed to win a title deed over that devastated country.

Vietnam Radio, of course, tries to justify its government's actions by saying that Heng Samrin has the right to defend itself and to enlist its help. The question, however, may be raised: Who is Heng Samrin? Is he a Kampuchean or a Vietnamese? Ethnically, we know him to be from Kampuchea, but since he was brought from Vietnam into his original land on a Vietnamese tank and has, for the past four years or so, been a tool and stooge of his Vietnamese masters, he has forfeited, in every aspect, his Kampuchean heritage and the right to act or speak for Kampuchea. To claim that the recent actions taken by Vietnam were in response to Heng Samrin's request is pure fiction completely devoid of meaning.

The most important fact, however, still remains and that is, the steadfast refusal of the great majority of UN members to recognize that surrogate of Vietnam. Despite the disparaging remark from an erring Western personality against the United Nations, in keeping with the traditional policy of one of his past leaders, who once derisively called the world organization "Le Machin" (the thing), the moral authority of that great organization remains a force for peace and international order.

If on the contrary, the weight of world public opinion where [as published] to shift in favour of Vietnam, the sovereign independence of Kampuchea would be jeopardized. That, to the great chagrin of the aggressor, is not likely to happen, and the UN continues to be the guarantor of the independence, not only of Kampuchea, but of a host of smaller countries on this planet.

For that reason, it is indeed deplorable that some governments and certain international organizations, such as UNICEF, failed to show their observance of and respect for the UN's decisions concerning Kampuchea. They have acted in violation of such decisions by giving aid and sustenance to the aggressors. In fact, packages with clear UNICEF markings recently appeared on satellite television news among the Vietnamese soldiers' helmets and gas masks. Not only that, but such aid also contributes to strengthening Vietnam's war efforts in Kampuchea.

In spite of recent disturbing events along the western Kampuchean border which spilled over into our country causing death and destruction, Thailand and its ASEAN partners will continue to seek a political solution to the problem. That does not mean, however, that we in this country, will allow violations of our territory to take place with impunity. Any violent trespassing will be met with adequate force. By maintaining contacts and consultations with our friends and partners, we will make every effort to preserve peace and stability in this part of the world and not allow Kampuchea's colonization by Vietnam to be consummated.

CSO: 4200/549

ASEAN SHOULD ACT MORE AGGRESSIVELY ON KAMPUCHEA

BK100822 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 9 Apr 83 p 3

[Editorial: "Condemnation From all Directions"]

[Text] Many countries have condemned the Vietnamese violations of Thai territory--which have cost the life of many Thai soldiers--and have demanded the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. Thailand has already informed the United Nations about the violations and their results. Unless Thailand violently retaliates, we think Vietnam will pretend not to hear its condemnation because it has never heeded or respected any criticism of its actions and has persistently continued its aggression.

There has been no indication that the United Nations will act effectively to halt Vietnam's mad aggression. Moreover, Vietnam has become arrogant in its actions because it feels that the United Nations can do nothing about them and because it is not a member of the international body [as published]. Thailand has protested the Vietnamese actions to the United Nations and to the Vietnamese and Soviet ambassadors but so far its action has shown no results.

Tens of thousands of Vietnamese and Kampucheans have taken refuge in Thailand, indicating the intention of the governments of their countries to push their innocent people out through criminal persecution. The problem for Thailand is that in addition to having to provide humanitarian assistance to these refugees, it must also concern itself with a hostile border. The deaths and injuries suffered by the Thai people near the Kampuchean border caused by the action of a country which seeks to occupy another country have worsened the situation in Southeast Asia and therefore the ASEAN countries should further strengthen themselves and act more aggressively.

We do not know if Vietnam is ashamed of its crazy genocidal actions in Kampuchea, but we do know that the only way to force it out of Kampuchea is by possessing greater military power than Vietnam and by the preparedness of the countries which do not agree with Vietnam's actions.

CSO: 4207/102

KAMPUCHEA--EXPERTS CITED ON SRV TROOPS' PERFORMANCE

BK090744 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 9 Apr 83

[By Jim Wolf]

[Text] Bangkok, 9 Apr (AFP)--Analysts here are giving Vietnamese troops in Cambodia high marks for deadly accurate firepower and overall military prowess during their current dry-season offensive.

The drive, the biggest in the four-year Cambodian bush war, has demonstrated a streamlining of Vietnamese command lines and stunning advances in artillery capability, according to Western experts.

Much of the praise has gone to the field gunners, who owe their improvement in turn to more sophisticated Soviet-supplied weaponry.

In the past year, Hanoi's forces have acquired late-technology 122 mm and 130 mm artillery pieces to replace old, U.S.-made 105 mm and 155 mm howitzers captured after the communist victories in Indochina in 1975.

Vietnamese troops laid down withering artillery barrages before their infantry sailed into two key resistance enclaves on the Thai border last week, capturing the ground with surprising ease, experts said.

One reason the Vietnamese have looked so good is that the Khmer Rouge have looked so bad, according to several Western experts. The guerrillas reportedly fled in total disarray only a few hours after Hanoi-led troops drove against their border stronghold at Phnom Chat.

But the Vietnamese juggernaut has also appeared stronger and more efficient because of a resumption of traditional unity of command tactics. In previous campaigns, they had tended to mix regiments from different divisions, a breach of fundamental military logic because it complicates command control, according to military men.

Experts are not entirely sure why Hanoi had previously failed to respect this principle in Cambodia.

One theory is that the 150,000-180,000-man expeditionary corps simply did not possess a division capable of putting together the kind of task force required for a specific job.

Now, according to Western military attaches, Vietnam used elements of its Fifth Division alone to knock out the Khmer Rouge stronghold at Phnom Chat at the start of the campaign, possibly because of fear it would be "a tough nut to crack," in the words of one.

Vietnamese artillery gunners particularly flaunted their skill during a bloody attack that destroyed a refugee encampment called Nong Chan in the first volley of the dry season on January 31.

Western experts said the gunners seemed at times to be involved in a kind of "exercise," training on a given target from several positions before shifting the entire field of fire elsewhere.

Experts widely agree the Thai Army would be no match for Vietnam's powerful war machine if ever it really intended to march on Bangkok, which nobody here now foresees.

Vietnam's total armed forces are estimated at about one million men, 2.2 per cent of its total population, four times more than the Thai Armed Forces.

While the U.S. has begun rushing deliveries of new weapons to Thailand to cope with the Vietnamese thrust, the move is widely seen as symbolic.

The U.S. would have to provide air and probably naval support to Thai troops "in the event of a full-scale Vietnamese attempt to roll into Bangkok," U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage told a Senate sub-committee on July 21, 1981.

He noted the Thais, who were never colonized and who have skillfully played off bigger powers throughout modern history, have never maneuvered in division-sized units.

CSO: 4200/550

THAILAND

'MATUPHUM' URGES 'INDEPENDENT' FOREIGN POLICY

BK100452 Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 9 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Independent Policy"]

[Text] Former Prime Minister Gen Kriangsak Chamanan has made the interesting remark that the dispute between Thailand and Vietnam over the Kampuchean issue is a result of Thailand involving itself in the internal affairs of another country, thus bringing upon itself an armed conflict. General Kriangsak also noted that the UN resolutions on Kampuchea have failed in that they have not been able to restore peace in the region and could not be put into practice.

Looking at the Kampuchean problem, what Thailand can do is abide strictly by the UN resolutions in order to apply political pressure on Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea, and support the coalition government of the three Kampuchean factions. This means that Thailand supports the Kampucheans themselves in struggling for their national independence and territorial integrity. If Vietnam should stop its barbaric actions against the Kampuchean people and turn to deliberately violating the Thai border and clashing with Thai forces, it will be condemned the world over as the aggressor and the guilty party. Thailand will be regarded as the victim of aggression which has the legitimate right of self-defense and retaliation.

It is a fact that Thai lives have been lost as a result of every Vietnamese violation of the Thai border after its offensives against the Kampuchean resistance forces. It is also a fact that Thailand has had to open its border to victims of the offensives. It has cost the Thai Government millions of baht to care for the refugees and the Thai people displaced by the border situation. The United Nations and the international community can help Thailand only with statements condemning the brutal Vietnamese actions. As long as Vietnam continues to disregard such condemnation and UN resolutions and acts as if its aggression is legitimate, Thailand will continue to face the same problem with Vietnam.

Therefore, what we can learn from the attitude of former Prime Minister Gen Kriangsak is that, in addition to our country having to strengthen its

military power to cope with Vietnamese aggression, it must also seek new political measures that will effectively, timely and powerfully counter the actions of Vietnam and its lackeys. Certainly, having a foreign policy which is independent from any foreign influence and establishing effective bargaining power in the international arena are what the people want from their government.

CSO: 4207/102

THAILAND

PAPER VIEWS HAYDEN'S STATEMENT ON SRV ATTACK

BK090826 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: Canberra Policies Ring Alarm Bells"]

[Text] In the diplomatic flurry which inevitably has accompanied and will continue to follow the Vietnamese attacks at and over our frontier, one country's reaction is being watched very carefully. Australia, whose voters last month elected a new government from the Labour Party, is the focus of many diplomatic eyes from both sides of the dispute. Concern stems from the party's election pledge to renew aid to Vietnam, halted in 1979 by the Malcolm Fraser government as by most governments in the world.

The new Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and his Foreign Minister Bill Hayden apparently believe what we think is an old canard. This is that Vietnam is unhappy with its dependence on the Soviet Union, and that any country which shows a little friendliness with Hanoi will be able, simply put, to "woo Vietnam away from the Russians." We, along with most other interested parties, believe the opposite. No one can woo Hanoi from Moscow because Hanoi is happy in the clutches of Moscow and has willingly placed itself there.

The Australian Government's first diplomatic test on Southeast Asia has come with the Vietnamese offensive. Its marks must be low. Mr Hayden has issued a statement, the full text of which has been circulated here by the Australian Embassy. The statement says that Australia "regrets" the plight of the Kampucheans and Thais displaced by the border fighting. It promises that Canberra will look into the possibility of providing humanitarian aid of some sort. It commends Thailand for its treatment of the refugee influx. That is what it says.

The statement does not, however, say many things. It does not, for example, even mention that Vietnamese troops entered Thailand, and therefore it does not express an opinion about that. It does not mention the finding of a solution for the Kampuchea tragedy itself beyond a vague reference about "diplomatic moves aimed at easing tensions." It makes no mention of the United Nations' International Conference on Kampuchea (ICK) which Australia previously had been pledged to support.

Mr Hawke, Mr Hayden and their government are undoubtedly still finding their new legs since they have been in office for such a short time. Later this month, Mr Hayden himself is coming calling. Perhaps he already intends to expand further upon his statement and express more of the sort of support we have come to rely upon from our Australian friends.

He should know, however, that his government's policy is under close scrutiny here in Thailand and indeed throughout Southeast Asia. We have faced--and we will continue to face, it appears--aggression and threats from the colonialists at our eastern frontier. We consider Australia's actions and reactions regarding these threats as a very serious matter indeed.

CSO: 4200/549

'NATION' ASSAILS KAPITSA REMARKS IN SINGAPORE

BK080226 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 8 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Wrong Time, Wrong Place, Wrong Gesture"]

[Text] Just as we were expecting the Soviet Union to feel somewhat guilty about what Vietnam has been doing on the Thai-Kampuchean border including the butchering of innocent Khmer civilians and incursions against Thai territory we were shocked at the crudity with which Moscow reacted.

In Singapore, a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry there quoted visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa as delivering a thinly-veiled threat--that Vietnam would retaliate by supporting insurgents groups in ASEAN countries if they continued to oppose Hanoi's policies in the region.

The bullying statement and tactics were simply beyond our comprehension. Or perhaps, it was simply a confirmation of a policy well-known between Moscow and Hanoi in the first place. But, all in all, the statement attributed to Kapitsa was nothing but blatant gimmickery by a super power trying to sow discord and tension in the region.

We strongly protest against such a crude and unwarranted statement.

The Singaporean spokesman quoted Kapitsa as saying that if ASEAN continued to support Kampuchean resistance forces, Vietnam would retaliate by supplying arms to insurgent groups in the region and, according to the Soviet deputy foreign minister, this state of affairs would erode the infrastructure of all Southeast Asia states.

Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Sinnathamby Rajaratnam, who was supposed to have received the threat from Kapitsa, was quoted as having replied that since subversive groups in ASEAN countries lean toward China, they were unlikely to receive arms from Hanoi.

We believe that Rajaratnam's statement must have been toned down quite a bit by the state-owned Broadcasting Corporation of Singapore.

Surely, Rajaratnam would not have allowed Kapitsa to make that statement without retaliating with a strong response--something to the effect that the Soviet Union might have stepped on the wrong line by making any statement on Vietnam's behalf. After all, Moscow has always said Hanoi is an independent state and runs its own foreign policy in the first place.

We doubt that Kapitsa could have said what he did in Singapore without having got the instructions from the top bosses in the Kremlin. But it did sound strange anyway since Kapitsa, only last month, invited the ASEAN ambassadors posted in Moscow for a working lunch during which he declared the policy of creating friendly ties with the non-communist regional grouping.

But what he was supposed to have said to Rajaratnam in Singapore as quoted by the radio broadcast there was certainly far from a friendly gesture. The region could hardly be free of tension and political solutions could not be found with such a threat of subversion.

All too often, Moscow and Hanoi have forgotten that under the framework of the International Conference on Kampuchea, free elections under UN supervision will be held when Vietnam pulls its troops out of Kampuchea so that the Kampuchean people could vote freely for their own future. ASEAN has not insisted that the Khmer Rouge will have to return to power. But then why should Hanoi and Moscow harp on the fact that Heng Samrin must be recognized?

The timing of Kapitsa's statement is also interesting. Is Moscow trying to fuel further tension in the region? Hanoi might want to look into this question as well instead of blindly following its own impossible dream.

CSO: 4200/549

THAILAND

NATION ON AUSTRALIAN STAND CONCERNING AID TO SRV

BK070242 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 7 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Canberra Must Make Clear Its Stand"]

[Text] The new Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke, of the Labour Party has said he will consult the United States and ASEAN over his government's plan to resume aid to Vietnam. He apparently hasn't got around to doing that. But Thailand and other ASEAN members could not possibly have failed to take note of the fact that while many countries have issued statements condemning the Vietnamese attacks on civilians and incursions into Thailand in the past weeks, the new government in Canberra has yet to take a stand on the issue. Australia's neighbour New Zealand has already done so.

We join the MELBOURNE AGE and AUSTRALIAN, two leading dailies in Australia, in calling upon the labour government in Canberra to review the pledge to resume aid to Vietnam in the wake of the indiscriminate and unmerciful nature of Hanoi's offensive in western Kampuchea near the Thai border. The AGE correctly pointed out that Hanoi's latest military offensive suggests that the Vietnamese are resistant to the notion of finding an internationally acceptable solution.

The Thai Foreign Ministry was right in not putting too much pressure on the Australian Labour Government of Bob Hawke when Australian Ambassador to Thailand G. A. Jockel was asked Tuesday, along with his colleagues from other Western countries and Japan, to come up with public condemnation against the Vietnamese indiscriminate drive on the Thai-Kampuchean border.

Obviously, the border situation and domestic mounting pressure on the labour government over its plan to consider giving aid to Hanoi lends an opportunity for the Thais to ask the Australian leadership to cancel the plan.

But Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Asa Sarasin apparently did not press the point during his meeting with Ambassador Jockel. The most "demanding point" he made was that the Thai Government wanted to know the Australian response to the Thai call for public condemnation against Hanoi "as soon as possible."

It is in fact not necessary to ask Canberra to cancel the plan to resume aid to Vietnam as the Thai position in this regard is clear. After all, Australia has not so far approached Thailand to discuss the matter.

Between the lines of Asa's statement, we could read the Thai wish to thrash out the issue with the Australians--the sooner, the better. And this feeling could have partly prompted Asa not to go as far as requesting Canberra not to resume aid to Hanoi. Stating the obvious just isn't always an effective nor desirable way of handling an important issue.

But then the fact remains that the labour government in Canberra could not dilly-dally for too long and in the wake of the Vietnamese offensive against Khmer resistance guerrillas and civilians on the Thai-Kampuchean border, Canberra should have sufficient information to make up its mind over the planned policy of resuming aid to Vietnam.

In fact, the domestic atmosphere in Australia is pressing for the labour government to make a decision on the issue. The liberal press in the country has urged the government to place priorities on channelling aid to Thailand, which is now bearing the brunt of the refugee influx while conservative press has asked Bob Hawke to cancel the plan.

Now is the time for the new government in Australia to come to a decision, if it was not to be accused of turning a blind eye to such blatant and clear-cut developments.

Any further delay would only indicate that Canberra condones the military "solution" being imposed with brutality upon the Khmer people.

CSO: 4200/549

FOREIGN MINISTRY APPEALS FOR INTERNATIONAL AID

BK081602 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 83

[Text] Following is a statement of the Thai Foreign Ministry regarding Vietnamese aggression Thai territory which was issued on 7 April 1983:

One month after the Vietnamese forces launched a military attack against Nong Chan encampment for Kampuchean refugees on 31 January and 4 February 1983, which has resulted in the disposal of 47,000 Kampuchean refugees and displaced persons to other refugee encampments as well as the complete destruction and burning down of the encampment, along with a school and hospital built for Kampuchean civilians by international relief agencies, including the United Nations border relief operation, or UNBRO, the Vietnamese forces in Kampuchea have once again committed heinous crimes against humanity and in particular against the innocent Kampuchean civilians, mostly women and children, as follows:

During 28 and 31 March 1983, about one division of Vietnamese forces supported artillery and tank units launched an attack against an encampment for Kampuchean refugees at Chamka Kor near the Thai-Kampuchea border as well as at Phnom Chat and at the area of Khok Thahan, Ta Phraya District, Prachin Buri provinces, causing a countless number of casualties for innocent Kampuchean civilians and again completely destroyed their encampment, schools, hospitals and other facilities built for them by the United Nations and other international relief agencies. The attack also resulted in an influx of close to 20,000 Kampucheans into Thailand, which has to provide them safe refuge in the area of Ban Thap Siam. About 1,000 Kampuchena civilians from the area of Chamka Kor were rounded up by Vietnamese troops, and their fates are still unknown.

Continous artillery barrage by Vietnamese troops into Thai territory also caused 20 deaths and more than 100 wounded among the fleeing Kampucheans, as well as one death and two wounded for the innocent Thai villagers.

On 3 April 1983, Vietnamese troops launched another military attack on the encampment for Kampuchean refugees in the area of O Smach or Sihanoukville, resulting in an influx of some 20,000 Kampucheans into Thai territory. Heavy artillery was again used, causing 20 to 30 injuries among the Kampucheans while fleeing into Thailand, as well as damages to property of the Thai villagers in Kap Choeng Distrinct, Surin Province.

Out of humanitarian consideration, the Government of Thailand has decided to provide safe refuge for these unfortunate Kampucheans at Ban Chanuan in Surin Province.

The above series of premeditated and indiscriminate attacks by Vietnamese forces occupying Kampuchea against the Kampuchean people [as heard] constituted a serious crime against humanity and are in open violation of the fundamental principles of humanitarianism and the UN Charter. These attacks have led to a massive influx of over 40,000 Kampuchean civilians, mostly women, children and the aging, into Thailand and have aggravated further the untold suffering of these unfortunate people.

The Royal Thai Government has decided to give temporary refuge to these Kampuchean refugees and displaced persons on humanitarian ground and is closely cooperating with the UNBRO, the International Red Cross Committee or ICRC and other relief agencies in providing the Kampucheans with all necessary assistance.

This latest influx of Kampucheans has added immeasurably to the already heavy burden Thailand is shouldering in providing temporary refuge to close to 170,000 Indochinese refugees and displaced persons. The Government of Thailand, therefore, reiterates its appeal to the international community to urgently extend humanitarian assistance to these Kampuchean people, who have been compelled by Vietnamese military forces to abandon their homeland to seek temporary refuge in Thailand as well as to the innocent Thai villagers, who have been affected and displaced by the influx of the Kampuchean refugees and displaced persons.

CSO: 4200/550

THAILAND

PATTANI LIBERATION LEADER ATTENDS LIBYAN CONFERENCE

Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic 14 Apr 83 p 3

[Article: "Events of the Morning Session and Closing Evening Session of the First World Conference on the Thought of Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, the Green Book in Theory and in Practice"]

[Excerpt] Brother Qarib Ahmad, secretary of the Pattani Liberation Organization, spoke before the [Green Book] Conference during the morning session yesterday.

Brother Qarib Ahmad expressed at the outset of his speech the importance of this great intellectual rally and the greetings of the Organization's revolutionaries to the participants in this conference, praising the support which the great al-Fatih Revolution gave to more than four million of the oppressed in the Pattani area.

He affirmed in his speech that the Green Book has provided final solutions to the democratic problem and the discarding of all forms of counterfeit democracies and multi-party and one-party systems.

He affirmed that in the absence of the democracy which the Green Book presents and propagates the Pattani people will resist disgusting massacres by the Thai authorities who rob them of their land and their freedom and obliterate their identity.

CSO: 4504/339

'BANGKOK POST' HAILS PHILIPPINES' SUPPORT

BK130622 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "The Philippines Are Friends Indeed"]

[Text] The Republic of the Philippines is relatively a long way from Thailand. The 7,000 Philippines Islands are the furthest ASEAN country from us in geographical terms. Its history, culture, language and religion are more unfamiliar to us and our own national experience than those of the other three ASEAN members, namely Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. With each of these three countries we share just a little bit more heritage than with the Philippines. Yet it is a truth that time after time we find ourselves as members of the Thai nation in harmony with members of the Philippine nation.

And so it has been for the past few days that Thailand has tried its best to give its warmest possible welcome to the visiting prime minister of the Philippines, Cesar Virata. He has come visiting at a time of yet another crisis at our borders. This crisis, although others would have the world believe differently, is not our desire and is most certainly not of our own making. Mr Virata has made it clear, with a sincerity which we appreciate, that he personally and his nation in general, are our friends.

Because of the distances between our two countries, we in Thailand sometimes tend to take the Philippines for granted. Because the Philippines and Thailand have always been friends in the modern age, we sometimes tend to take this friendship for granted. Mr Virata has once again shown us--as our own Prime Minister Prem showed us last year on his visit to Manila--that we share that friendship. A testing time has been forced upon us by the colonialists at our frontier, and Mr Virata and the government which he heads and the nation which he serves have made it extremely clear, in no uncertain terms, exactly what their stand is.

There is no waffling from Manila. There are idealists there, as here. But there are no dreamers. From Mr Virata during his stay here, we have heard no "ifs" and no "buts." He has said, in almost so many words, that Thailand and its friends are being tested; that friends do not allow bullies to intimidate them; that friends stand together. The Philippines stands directly beside Thailand.

The Vietnamese war at and over our borders is an extremely threatening phenomenon. With Hanoi pursuing its combined diplomatic, propaganda and military warfare (talk-talk--fight-fight, as it has been dubbed correctly) the slightest sign of rift or break between us and any of our friends will be exploited to the fullest. With friends like the Philippines, it is almost impossible to have enemies who can hurt you.

CSO: 4200/550

FORMER CPT MEMBER ON REASON FOR DEFECTION

BK170704 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 16 Apr 83 p 6

[Text] Withit Chandawong, son of Khlong Chandawong, who was executed on communist charges during the Sarit administration, is probably the most prominent communist defector running in the general elections.

Contesting in Sakhon Nakhon as an independent candidate, Withit surrendered to the Second Army Region to "prove that I, as a descendant of the Chandawong clan, am determined to serve the people."

Withit, who joined the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) on September 25, 1973, after having been released from a six-year imprisonment, talked at length with THE NATION election desk on the development of conflicts with the pro-China leadership of the outlawed party, which led to his defection.

Following are excerpts from the interview:

Withit travelled from his jungle base in the northeast to Bangkok in late 1980, after his wife was arrested in Udon Thani on communist charges, to study the changing conditions in the city. He shuttled between the jungle and the city without any instructions from the party leadership, while the ideological controversy within the party was escalating.

Withit proposed that the party leadership review three fundamental problems: the ideological problem, the political prospectus of the party, and the organizational problem.

On the ideological problem, Withit criticized the party for its tendency to cling to subjectivity and dogmatism rather than objectivity and dialectic. "I believe that human beings formulate theories and so, it is wrong for us to be subservient to theories. We should be able to adjust the theories in accordance with objective reality," he said.

Withit, in his negation of the party's political platform, argued that the whole system of the party is not realistic, because it is based on an incorrect ideology, prompting the party to set unrealistic targets for the revolution and make mistakes by forming alliances with special interest groups.

Withit thought the party should form alliances with all democracy-loving groups, including the Phak Mai Party led by Bunyen Wothong. The party has accused

Phak Mai of being a tool of the pro-Vietnam communists, who want to dominate the country.

On the organizational problem, Withit commented that democratic traditions should be allowed in the rank and file of the party. He described the organizational like of the party as left-leaning and following a "romantic socialism."

Withit attended the extended meeting of representatives from northeastern operatives to prepare for the Fourth Party Congress. The resolutions of the regional meeting called "resolutions 101," were described as "progressive" and welcomed by Withit.

But, he further said the party leadership rejected the resolutions on grounds that the representatives from the Isan meeting who presented the resolutions to the leadership did not have a deep understanding of the rationale behind the decisions. He also attributed the rejection to the elderly leaders, who took pride in their former contributions to the growth of the outlawed party.

During his conflicts with the party leadership, the Second Army Region Chief Intelligence officer, Col Sangiam Rattanasimakon, approached him and tried to persuade him to defect from the party, but he said he was not ready, and did not want the party to plummet further because of his defection.

The "breaking point" between Withit and the party came after the party dismissed him following his refusal to travel to party headquarters to take the resolutions of the Fourth Party Congress. Withit refused to go because he strongly disagreed with the party's opinion of Bunyen Wothong.

The communist defector was in Bangkok when he was fired. He sought a meeting with Army Assistant Chief of Staff Lt Gen Chaowalit Yongchaiyut at Suan Ruamrudi and felt that the army officer commanded a good grasp of the anti-communist policy enshrined in Government Order No 66/2523. But then he had doubts, thinking that some government officials were implementing the order just to get promotions, and out of political consciousness. [sentence as published].

Withit decided to surrender to the Second Army Region as he wanted to give credit to Colonel Sangiam.

When he applied for political candidacy on March 28, he felt that the authorities did not look at him with contempt. "Somebody put through a call to Sawang Dindaeng and told them that Comrade Phan would run in the general elections. When I returned to Sawang Dindaeng the next morning, the villagers greeted and bearhugged me," he related.

CSO: 4200/549

HANOI'S LATEST TROOP WITHDRAWAL OFFER VIEWED

BK150310 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 15 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Hanoi Can Only Go on Repeating Herself"]

[Text] We are not so presumptuous as to think that the leaders in Hanoi have no originality because they are repeating the same statements about Kampuchea time and again like a broken record. However, we do have a strong suspicion that they are cornered and have to curb their originality--of which we are sure they have plenty--and come up with the same banal suggestions that one is not sure whether to laugh or just get bored.

Yes, once more Hanoi has said that she is pulling back troops from Kampuchea, part of the over 200,000 men she has there, and has called for talks between the three Indochinese states and ASEAN, Kampuchea to be represented of course by the Heng Samrin regime. We have lost count of how many times this proposal has been made but it is indeed a sorry diplomatic effort if Hanoi's intention is to divert its attention from the recent fighting along the Thai-Kampuchean border and the expected offensive which has been predicted by our military analysts.

Hanoi has little choice because ASEAN's stand commands international respect, the Chinese stand is more military-oriented, and at the same time she cannot deviate a millimetre from the line laid down by the Kremlin. She has a difficult problem even in her propaganda efforts and we fully understand this. Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels' dictum was: "Make it simple; tell it often." If Hanoi is following that line it is barking up the wrong tree because Goebbels' dictum was meant for home consumption.

Let us apply some logic to this proposal which one ASEAN diplomat has dismissed as "laughable". Vietnam cannot withdraw any forces from Kampuchea because, if she does, the Phnom Penh regime will crumble like a sand castle built by children on the beach. Second, Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea are living off the land and if they are sent back home the domestic economy will not be able to support them. Third, China has demanded in the normalization talks after the "first lesson" that the talks could only progress if Vietnam made concrete gestures and spelled them out as the partial withdrawal of troops from Kampuchea. On all three counts the Vietnamese pledge to withdraw troops is "laughable."

Long, long ago the suggestion of including a representative of the Heng Samrin regime in an Indochinese delegation was dismissed offhand as Hanoi's ploy to obtain de facto recognition of the puppet government in Phnom Penh. And Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach tried a variation on the theme by suggesting to Singapore and to Malaysia, during the non-aligned summit in New Delhi last month, that Vietnam and Laos on the one hand and ASEAN on the other should discuss a solution to the problem of Kampuchea. Perhaps this is even more "laughable" because it is the contention of not only ASEAN but also of the United Nations that the Kampucheans should decide their own future.

How seriously should we take this parroting of the same proposals by Hanoi? Perhaps there is some method in this madness since we refuse to believe that the Vietnamese leaders are simpleminded. Is Hanoi getting worried that Moscow and Beijing may get together and arrive at a solution for the future of Kampuchea? Such a possibility cannot be dismissed since if Moscow turns off the tap tomorrow, the Vietnamese will not be able to occupy Kampuchea the following day.

What are the odds on Vietnam coming up with the same statement in the next few months?

CSO: 4200/549

AIR FORCE SEEKING MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRPLANES

BK100358 Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 10 Apr 83 pp 1-2

[Excerpts] The air force is planning to purchase more sophisticated airplanes to improve its air defence, Deputy Defence Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Phaniang Kantarat said yesterday.

He said the new fighter-bombers to be bought must have versatile performance. He was speaking to reporters one day after an A-36 fighter-bomber of the air force was shot down near the Thai-Kampuchean border in Surin.

ACM Phaniang did not say what particular type of airplanes the air force will buy but it is known that the air force is interested in F-16 and Tiger Shark airplanes.

"We give consideration to airplanes with high performance and suitable prices," he said.

The bodies of the two pilots who were killed in the crash of the A-37 plane in Kap Choeng District were taken to Wat Phra Si Mahathat yesterday for funeral rites.

Newly-appointed Air Force Commander-in-chief ACM Praphan Thupatemi said government authorities were investigating the cause of the crash.

He said the airplane could either have developed engine trouble or been hit by anti-aircraft guns or SAM. He said wreckage of the aircraft was found scattering around and its head buried in the ground.

The aircraft was flying at the height of 4,000 feet on a routine reconnaissance flight in Thai airspace. "The sky was hazy and the plane had to fly at low altitude," he said.

All pilots were ordered to be more careful in conducting their reconnaissance flights following the incident, he said.

Air Force Chief-of-staff ACM Somphon Burutratanaphan said a ground force had been despatched into the crash site to conduct an investigation. He said the two-seat aircraft, which was capable of flying at a speed of about 480 miles an hour, was flying in Thai airspace when it was hit.

CSO: 4200/550

THAILAND

AIR FORCE TO CONCENTRATE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

BK090904 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Apr 83 p 20

[Text] Military involvement in politics will weaken the armed forces, newly-installed Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Praphan Thupatemi said yesterday.

Speaking after being sworn in as the new air force commander-in-chief replacing the late ACM Thaklaeo Susinwon yesterday, ACM Praphan said that the air force wanted to concentrate on military affairs rather than politics.

"Since we are a technologically oriented force, we don't want to be involved in politics because this will lead to the weakening of the armed forces," ACM Praphan said.

He said priority must be given to the development of the air force's strength and capacities rather than politics.

As to the balance of power which the former air force c-in-c reportedly tried to maintain among the armed forces, he replied:

"What does this mean? I don't know what balance of power means."

Asked what he would do in case politics "meddled" with him first, he said that it would depend on the circumstances, adding that should his involvement be required, it would be quite normal for him to get involved "a little bit" with it.

He did not elaborate.

Switching to other topics, ACM Praphan assured newsmen that the air force would be able to act and retaliate promptly if the country was threatened by an enemy.

He said the air force was on constant alert and could give immediate battle support to the army.

He promised during the swearing-in ceremony yesterday that he would do his utmost to make the air force strong and disciplined so that it would serve as a buttress of the country's sovereignty.

"To achieve this end, cooperation is needed from all parties ranging from marshals to draftees and employees within the air force," the new c-in-c said.

On the current border situation, ACM Praphan said that the air force and the army had worked closely to flush out the Vietnamese intruders.

He said that the air raids by F-5E fighter-bombers and OV-10 counter-insurgency aircraft were conducted on Thai soil, not on Kampuchean territory.

ACM Praphan expressed his confidence that Vietnam would not attack Thai troops with war planes, saying that if Vietnam did so, it would be provoking a war.

"According to our intelligence reports, so far there hasn't been any sign that Vietnam will resort to air raids," ACM Praphan said, disclosing that most the Vietnamese aircraft stationed in Kampuchea were transport, not war planes.

Asked whether the air force had any plan to buy more new aircraft to prepare for new developments on the border, he said the air force was carrying out a package of development plans to boost the capability of its personnel, including improving its curriculum and weapons to make them more effective.

The new c-in-c revealed that the air force also plans to buy new aircraft with high attacking capability.

CSO: 4200/549

ARMY'S ROLE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIEWED

BK071127 Bangkok Domestic Television Service in Thai 1345 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Interview given by Commander of the 9th Infantry Division Maj Gen Somkhit Chongphayuha to interviewer Dr Siwawut Thephatsadin during weekly television "Talks on National Problems" program on the topic of "The Army Role as Viewed by Other Countries"--recorded; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] I have another question. Under the present situation, free world countries in this region are closely watching Thailand. This can be seen from the fact that, for the first time, our country has been invited to this seminar [seminar held recently in Seoul by the armies of the Pacific countries and attended by 28 countries] as a participant--in the past we were only invited as an observer. This might be because they were impressed by our capabilities in certain areas and therefore would like to hear from us about our accomplishments and learn about the methods we used in order to achieve them. What did you tell them during the seminar?

[Answer] I will tell you later about our capabilities which have impressed them. First, I would like to answer the latter half of your question--what did I tell them. My lecture lasted about 20 minutes. I told them that Thailand is faced with internal as well as external problems, but we are in control of the situation and have managed to effectively cope with the internal and external threats. We have also achieved satisfactory results in our economic growth. Although it was not great, it was quite good. I also told them that the army has played an important role in achieving security and stability for the country.

Concerning the internal threats, we are facing not only military but also economic, political and psychological problems, and it is the principal task of the national armed forces, with the army as a member, to counter these threats. We have thus set our target on developing the country. I then told them about what we have done in order to simultaneously achieve results for national security and economic development, how we coordinated work by government agencies and private companies in order to achieve our targets. As a result, we have won basic victories in our efforts to defeat the Communist Party.

I showed them pictures on this. I also have pictures for you now. This is a picture of the surrender of a group of Thai national development participants in Nakhon Phanom. This picture is from Umphang. Foreigners are very interested in what made those members of the Communist Party renounce their ideology and hand over weapons, ammunition, other materials and even flags, the symbol of their ideology, to the authorities and vow to take part in the government's process for national development. Foreigners are very interested in this point. This was what I lectured about in general.

After the lecture, they asked me many questions. I spent about another 40 minutes answering their questions. Altogether I spent over 1 hour at the seminar, the longest of all the speakers. This is because they are interested in several problems and want to have us answer them. They are interested in the problem of national security. They want to know why Thailand has been able to preserve national security and independence for all this time, from the past to the present, despite the fact that we have been threatened by internal as well as external threats. They want to know why, what kind of system of coordination we have established for our government agencies, the army, the other units of the armed forces and the civilial officials--all of which form the national armed forces--which has enabled those agencies to work in harmony and without conflict and to achieve results for our policy to develop the country simultaneously with achieving internal security. Our victory at Khao Kho is a proof of our success. They therefore questioned us. They felt that what we told them is useful for them in order to apply it in their countries. What is curious is the fact that not only the countries in this region appreciated our information but even some countries in Europe told us during receptions that our lecture was useful to them. This really surprised me.

[Question] There is another point I would like to ask you. Concerning the seminar you attended, I am sure that the armies from those countries participating in the seminar also play an important role in national development as well as in national defense. Did the seminar tackle this problem? What should be the role of the army according to the seminar's participants. In our country itself, the role of the army is being widely discussed now. There are questions as to why soldiers do not remain in their barracks and tackle their proper jobs instead of meddling in all the affairs of the country. What were the opinions expressed at the seminar about the role of the army about which you may want to tell our audience?

[Answer] This is a very important issue and it was widely discussed during the whole seminar, at official meetings, at discussions in small groups as well as at informal exchanges. The question is: Whether it is right for the army to assume a role in national development, and if it is, to what extent? There were various views on this question, but to sum up they concluded that the army should have a role in national development. In developing countries like the countries in the Pacific, national development and national defense are related tasks. Since the army's major task is in national security, the army, in any country, should also play a role in national development to a certain extent, depending on the situation in each country. Since the tasks of national development and national defense cannot be separated and since the major task of the army is that of national defense, the army therefore cannot be deprived of a role in national development. This is one point that was made.

Another point was the following: The participants in the seminar were of the view that the army is an organized and well disciplined body of human resources. In addition to performing its military duty, such an organization can be a resource for national development, especially when it is free from the military duties which are its major responsibility. Second, the army is equipped with materiel necessary for various purposes, such as for mechanics or for medical use, and this is useful. Moreover, the army, in any country, usually has its posts throughout the country, especially in remote areas where development has not yet reached. It therefore has the opportunity of getting to know the rural people, the farmers and peasants, who are rather poor and have fewer opportunities than other groups in the population. The army is therefore aware of the problems of this group of people which constitutes the majority of population. The army is exposed to their problems and therefore cannot remain idle.

On the whole, participants in the seminar agreed that the army cannot remain idle to those people's problems because the purpose of an army is not just to serve the order of the armed forces but also to serve the people. This is because the army belongs to the people. The army therefore must take the interests of the majority of the people to its heart. The army must serve the interests of the people. This is not my personal statement. It was the statement made by the chief of our army, by Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, army commander in chief.

[Question] Dear listeners: Our "Talks on National Problems" program today has tackled a problem of prime interest, not only just for our country, but also for many other countries as well. It is about the maintenance of national security and stability and the social development of the country which are to be carried out continuously and simultaneously. To maintain national security is already not an easy job, especially since we are a small country with limited natural resources. We therefore cannot spend all we have on one aspect while ignoring the rest, but we have to take care of the two problems simultaneously, that is economic development and maintenance of national security, in order to achieve our overall target of development.

CSO: 4207/102

'BANGKOK POST' ON NEW INFLUX OF REFUGEES

BK110444 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "A Familiar, but Tragic Story"]

[Text] Once again we learn that victims of crimes often have to pay far higher penalties than the criminals. Once again, our nation is the victim of an influx of Kampuchean refugees, who also are victims, while the Vietnamese bully and its "lawyers" like the Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa proclaim their innocence.

Our authorities have reluctantly and quite rightly concluded that there is no other decently humane action to take in the existing circumstances than to house once again the tens of thousands of Kampucheans forced once more to seek refuge in Thailand. We believe, along with the responsible policy-makers of our country, that to turn these people away at this time of pressing need would be wrong. The result is that Thailand is again in the sad position of having to open more refugee camps to accommodate the helpless, innocent victims of the continual and continuous Vietnamese brutality on our eastern neighbour.

The immediate effect of this is that previously closed refugee camps in Phraya Kamput of Chanthaburi Province and in Kap Choeng District of Surin Province will have to reopen. The camp at Khao I Dang area of Prachin Buri Province, which was the unique Kampuchean refugee camp on our soil a few days ago, will again have to be expanded. The Kampuchean victims of Vietnamese brutality, aggression, expansionism and colonialism have once again lost their very few possessions, their families, their physical and mental bearings. In addition to those Thais who have tasted the sting of the Vietnamese war machine, the entire nation once again will serve as a temporary resting place for tens of thousands of the Kampuchean victims.

If these comes a day, our authorities say, when these Kampucheans can return to their own land, they will be allowed to do so. This, of course, has been our policy since 1979, a policy supported not only by us but by virtually every member of every nation and international organisation involved in refugee care.

For well over four years now we in Thailand, and the Khmer people, have been the victims of Vietnamese brutality and intransigence. While it may smack of immodesty, we congratulate all us Thais from our government down to the local farmers at the Khmer frontier who have borne up magnificently under the ordeal. We have behaved, we believe, with both fortitude and humanity.

How long this situation will continue is hard to foresee. Vietnam continues its policy of killing those who disagree with its policies. It kills, imprisons or expels its domestic opponents; it maintains the same policies in its Laotian and Kampuchean colonies and it now is extending the penalty of death by war to yet another country--our own. The Hanoi rulers seem to have the mentality of 17th century European colonialists.

Once again, we make this appeal to the Vietnamese rulers: stop the brutality; come to your senses; recognise that it is the 20th century and a colonial policy is unacceptable. Take your troops home; work at making your own country a pleasant and rich place to live for your own citizens. Stop interfering with the rights of other people, including ours, and let us and the Kampucheans live in the peace that we surely deserve.

CSO: 4200/550

THAILAND

BRIEFS

SRV URGED TO STOP INTRUSIONS--Democrat Party Leader Phichai Rattakun said he has sent a telegram to Hanoi urging Vietnamese leaders to immediately stop intruding on Thai territory. Charging that the incursion violated the integrity and sovereignty of Thailand, Mr Phichai told reporters yesterday after a campaign speech at Sanam Luang organised by the Thai Trade Union Congress (TTUC) that he deplored the Vietnamese action. [Excerpt] [BK090856 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Apr 83 p 20]

CSO: 4200/549

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

EVIDENCE OF CHINESE-U.S. POLITICO-ECONOMIC PLOT EXHIBITED

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 19 Feb 83 p 2

[Article by Minh Nguyen: "Exhibition on Maintenance of Politico-Economic Security and Struggle against Violations of Socialist Property"]

[Text] Many people in our country and from abroad have visited the exhibition on maintenance of politico-economic security and struggle against violations of socialist property which has been held in Van Ho since 2 February.

This is an opportunity to denounce the schemes and acts of the Beijing expansionist hegemonists in connivance with U.S. imperialism in an attempt to carry out manifold sabotage activities in our country.

In the field of economic security, the exhibition has exposed the enemy intention to blockade and undermine our economy with the assistance of speculators and smugglers. The exhibition has displayed evidence of usurpation, dispersion and theft in order to provide a practical means to educate the people to oppose all violations of socialist property.

The exhibition has presented many tangible pictures of successful struggle in maintaining politico-economic security and safeguarding the common property.

At the outset, there was an expansionist plan of the Beijing authorities to lure the Vietnamese to China for espionage training, to send them back to our country to carry out sabotage activities by setting up borderline markets and an adequate network of smuggling routes, to organize the infiltration of henchmen for sabotage purposes and to send into our country agents of the South China intelligence department and the so-called Chinese public security forces. Ngo Tong Sang, Tran Van Chat, Ly Bat, Tran Dinh Mai and other guys were caught in our net together with their weapons, equipment, radio sets and means used to carry out activities.

These men had to admit their devilish plots and to confess that their dens were in Tien Yen, Quang Ninh and Mong Cai, that they had posed as a second-grade student of the Vietnam Drama Theater and as herb doctors and folk medicine sellers and that they had infiltrated for underground activities.

Lo Quang Thua--who stealthily established connections with other henchmen and their dens--and other fellows could not escape our vigilant network. They had infiltrated by sea and sneaked into the ships of other countries which called at the Ho Chi Minh City Port. They had boarded the ship Bac Hai to enter some port but were caught neatly by us. They had boarded the naval intelligence ship Nam Ngu which was equipped with the necessary intelligence means but they were also caught by us. Skipper Tran Toan Xuong and 35 sailors had to confess their crime and to shamefully sign a report containing their detailed statements.

Fostering its henchmen and training them into effective agents to oppose and sabotage us is one of the schemes of the United States.

Following is a statement by a former well-known Saigon spy who was once a U.S. henchman with the rank of lieutenant colonel and then the function of director of the Operational Bureau of the "Open-Arms" Ministry and who worked afterward with the U.S.-puppet Ministry of Information.

"I am Vo Dai Ton, born on 8 July 1936 in Da Nang. I was arrested on my infiltration way from Thailand to the Central Highlands of Vietnam. I was involved in a plot against the Vietnamese revolution..."

There is a full set of pictures showing him in the act of training his accomplices to carry out psywar activities and to urge people to move to other areas, gathering his henchmen, sneaking them into refugee camps and using the newspaper "TRANG DEN" [White and Black] to carry out propaganda against us...

The enemy had suffered many other defeats: The reactionary henchmen posing as priests and named Nguyen Luan, Nguyen Ton Sung and Truong Trong Phuoc with a sketch of an attack to be launched against our armed forces units; the Nguyen Cong Doan-Le Thanh Quy clique at the Dac Lo Church (Ho Chi Minh City); the Buddhist impersonators named Thich Gia Quoi, Thich Quang Ly... at the Co Son Mon Pagoda (Quang Nam-Da Nang) and the Caodaist impersonators... were all caught neatly while they were carrying out intelligence activities with full equipment including printing machines, money, documents, leaflets, munitions and radio sets...

The figures, pictures and evidence exhibited are only part of all those which had been seized but suffice to show the enemy schemes and defeats. They constitute a blatant proof the Chinese expansionists' connivance with the U.S. imperialists in launching a war of destruction against us. Their criminal acts such as shooting, killing, robbery, temptation and sabotage have filled our people with more hatred and a greater determination to fight and stay their bloody hands.

The brilliant feats of arms and examples of valiant combat and sacrifice of our troops, public security forces and people constitute a strength to defend our fatherland and to safeguard our socialist construction.

9332

CSO: 4209/305

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST POWER THIEVES INITIATED IN HANOI

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 8 Mar 83 pp 1,4

[Article by Quang Cat: "Open New Campaign Against Power Thieves"]

[Text] For some time the people of Hanoi have been very resentful of power thieves. The gang itself uses 2.4 million kilowatt-hours free of charge each month. This loss, on the one hand, enriches them and, on the other hand, causes many additional difficulties in terms of production and living conditions for law-abiding people. They also disrupt security in other respects, disrupt internal solidarity, and so on.

The inspection campaigns last summer and recently against power thieves by the power sector, public security and youths of the Power Service achieved definite results, but this was, in effect, merely an alarm! Eliminating theft and illegal use of electricity is a pressing requirement now. Enforcing resolution 12 from the Standing Committee of the Municipal VCP Committee and decisions and directives from the Municipal People's Committee on the plan to coordinate action by the four forces in the sphere of managing, distributing and using electricity, the director of the Power Service and director of the municipal public security opened a new campaign against negativism in the capital's power sector.

This campaign began on Sunday night, 6 March.

I arrived at the headquarters of the municipal public security at 7:30 am. Alongside the director of the Power Service, Dang Duc Ha, were the director of the municipal public security, Pham Tam Long, and deputy directors Huy Vu, Tran An, and Vu Dinh Hoanh. Also there were the deputy commander of the Capital Military Command, the deputy secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions, the deputy chief of the Mass Agitation Department of the Municipal VCP Committee, the deputy Secretary of the Municipal Youth Union, and so on.

Through a period of preparation and trying a number of locations, today can be said to be a large-scale deployment. Nguyen Huu Duy, deputy commander of the Municipal People's Safety and Public Security, informed me that missions would get under way tonight in the three districts of Thanh Tri, Tu Liem and Gia Lam, and all four urban precincts of Hoan Kiem, Hai Ba Trung, Dong Da and Ba Dinh. Seventy-five power theft places will be hit tonight -- 58 inside the city and 17 outside the city. Records have been prepared for all places. And this was the anticipated number; it would undoubtedly be many more. On the night before last they only intended to try four places in Mai Dong but, upon uncovering seven places making ice cream and ice illegally, and using electricity without passing through a meter, they confiscated the

material evidence and apprehended four of the culprits. It can be stated that power thieves are indeed numerous at this moment. To do this widely, vigorously and continuously is the responsibility of everyone of us.

The director of Power Corporation 1 stated that henceforth there will be uninterrupted power night and day if Hanoi fundamentally combats power thieves. This too is worth considering.

Dang Duc Ha said, "We can guarantee an effective supply of electricity if we are victorious this time over those who operate illegally." Pham Tam Long stated, "This is the opening phase of the campaign against power thieves in an effort to obtain electricity to support production and daily life. We will surely be triumphant."

All the leaders of the Power Service, municipal public security and sectors worked throughout the evening. Portable radios available at all places were repeatedly called and heard orders from headquarters. The situation was under control every hour and minute. Huy Vu, Dang Duc Ha, Nguyen Huu Duy, etc., went to each important place in the city to review and direct. In the consultations the comrades met all the public security chiefs and deputies of the four precincts. Later, the chairman of the Hai Ba Precinct People's Committee came to inspect the places in the precinct.

When we arrived in Dong Da Precinct, the deployment began here. There was a full contingent: people from the power branch, public security, army, trade union inspection, youth, and so on. All were concentrated in the precinct to receive the assignments to go to the places.

Our automobile stopped in front of the home of Nguyen Hung Cuong, a worker at the Rang Dong Light Bulb-Thermos Bottle Factory who moonlights repairing electric plugs at 60 Nguyen Trai Street in Thuong Dinh Ward. One hour before, the precinct's inspection unit had captured a 550-watt motor, two bellows, two oil containers, one magnetic starter, an ignition device, and many other items. There was no electricity to the house because he was repairing the line, temporarily cutting off the electricity. Cuong had tapped two sources of electricity from the road. Someone in the neighborhood team talked with us, saying this man had a life of plenty and was too obvious. His work, it could be said, was living off stolen electricity -- selling electrical items, charging batteries, repairing electric plugs, selling thermos bottles, cooking with electricity, even standing up for a number of surrounding homes which had contracted for electricity for daily life!

It should be mentioned that, when the precinct's inspection team arrived, the surrounding people were very receptive and supportive, and provided considerable information to the team.

After entering the Nam Dong public security post to see recently-confiscated electrical pastry-making machine belonging to Trinh Ngoc Duong who lives at 20, No 4, Dan Village (this machine uses considerable electricity), we went to the home of Ta Xuan Long, an electrical worker who lives at No 15, Alley 71, Nam Dong. Long had tapped three sources of electricity to the house so that if one were lost another could be used; these also were sources of electricity both for production and contract. Although knowing beforehand because we had heard the report in the precinct, the extent of Long's treachery was not realized until then. Long carried on production with many types of machines on a very large scale. This time, purifying electrical cadres

and workers also is the desire and intent of the director of the Hanoi Power Service. Please allow me to add that several days before this two workers from the power sector, who also live in this precinct, had cut 15 meters of cable in four places on the net to bring to houses. All of them have been imprisoned by the precinct public security and are awaiting trial.

Our entire convoy passed through Vinh Tuy Ward and, although late, noodle stands here were still lit up, with customers coming and going. A Hai Ba Trung public security comrade was surprized. "These stands are taking electricity from the granary near here. Not long ago they were cited and compelled to cut off electricity. Why are they now again brazenly using it?"

In the end this is precisely a case challenging the administration. Because their profits have offended and disregarded everyone, it makes no difference who one is afraid of. The automobile could do nothing but invite the public security to come and again fill out citations. According to the commanders, they had to apprehend the owner of the noodle stands, Ho, the perpetrator of the foregoing.

Entering another noodle stand nearby which also was lit up, the owner declared he worked at the Electrical Transmission Service. This was strange, for he himself had not even been cited. Then we went to the Minh Khai Ward. This is a ward with many places using electricity illegally. The ward public security commander, Le Quy Duong, stated that the post has 30 people, 26 of whom were involved this evening. In addition, there were many civil defense, security guard and youths participating. There was not much time to see the places operating illegally, such as producing noodles with electric motors and cooking with electric stoves. We devoted attention to those places making powder for firecrackers by electrolysis. Nguyen Tu Tai, who lives at 3 Minh Khai Street, was making powder on a fairly large scale. Before Tet, 60 bottles of powder had been confiscated from Tai, and Tai himself had been jailed in the precinct until the 28th when he was released temporarily. And today he was continuing to make powder for firecrackers. The only difference was that before he worked on the surface. Now he was more "modern," having built a large underground tunnel to do electrolysis with dozens of glass bottles and other types of supplies. Upon hearing the arrival of the inspection unit, he jumped in and escaped. In this ward, the public security also captured Dinh Viet Quang, 27 years old, who lives at No 2, Hoa Binh Alley 3, and Phung Van Hien, who lives at No 32, Hoa Binh Alley 3; both also were making powder for firecrackers by electrolysis. The evidence consisted of almost 100 large bottles for electrolysis. In their pursuit of money and disregard of every state law, this bunch brazenly operated illegally, becoming even more and more flagrant each day.

In the Ba Dinh Precinct public security, the deputy commander of the precinct public security told me that this evening the power branch here had made many contributions. Here they had fined a gang that was operating illegally and tried them on the spot for cutting off electricity: Dinh Van Ngoan, who lives at 168 Son Tay Street, for using a plastic press bypassing a meter for many years; Ngo Viet Hien and Nguyen Thi Hung, who live at 4 Ngoc Ha Street, and Nguyen Ba Dam, who lives at 2 Ngoc Ha Street, for taking electricity from the priority line belonging to foreign embassies to carry on their business. Many forms indeed.

It was about dawn when we arrived at Hoan Kiem Precinct. We knew that there had been results the night before from the inspection of many places using electricity illegally. The electricity was off, but the home selling noodles at 25 Hang Giay Street was

still lit up. Were they using a private battery? Upon investigating we learned that here too a common method was being used -- tapping a priority line. The household at 6 Cho Gao Street that was milling rice and green bean flour also was using priority electricity like this. At 36 Hang Cot Street the electricity was off in the meter yet it was still shining bright. The meter either never worked or worked at the discretion of the owner. Considerable electricity was used but little money was paid. And stranger yet! At 57 Hang Chieu Street the meter was running in reverse. Someone in the group burst out laughing. "The Power Service will have to pay the user in this case."

The portable radios were still resounding with signals. It was almost morning, but many places were still repeatedly reporting back to central headquarters and requesting instructions. Continuously into the morning of the following day many places continued to conduct inspections. And as acknowledged at the outset, the first night of inspection was more successful than initially planned. These were the preliminary achievements we recorded at the press conference reviewing the inspection efforts at the Hanoi Power Service. Definitely a shattering success. Under the umbrella of the four forces enthusiastically supported by and with the active involvement of the people, inspection units entered 123 places, almost double that anticipated initially. Hai Ba Trung Precinct inspected 59 places, Dong Da, 21 places, Ba Dinh, 11 places, Hoan Kiem, 15 places, Thanh Tri, 8 places, Tu Liem, 6 places, and Gia Lam, 3 places. All either had tapped priority electricity without authorization, or used electricity for daily life without permission, or used immobilized meters, ones that operated in reverse, or bypassed them, or stole electricity to produce items not allowed to be produced, etc. Virtually all of these thieves were wealthy, their homes nicely decorated, and so on. Outside the city were several instances of making bicycle tires, the intent being to use force to resist inspection units. These people with this attitude were immediately imprisoned. Material evidence (e.g., machinery, electrical items, electrical supplies, electric motors, production tools, etc.) and many other things were either sealed up or confiscated, and many criminals were apprehended. But, at any rate, this was only the success of the first day of the new campaign. In addition to inspection, the power sector, public security sector, and other sectors also must continue to do even more, such as investigating, dealing with and seeking to understand the source of internal purification so as to gradually eliminate the negativism that already exists and that is emerging. With the enthusiastic support of the people, we will surely be triumphant.

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CSO: 4209/327

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

ARMY PAPER DISCUSSES DISTRICT FORTRESS BUILDING

BK121551 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 10 Apr 83

[Unattributed article in "recent issue" of GUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Building District Fortresses"]

[Text] Building districts into military fortresses is a basic factor in building provinces into economic and national defense combat units. Building all-round potentials on the district level is important not only to the tasks of defending localities and conducting local people's war but also to increasing the defense strength of the entire country and waging war with main force corps. Once built into basic units of people's war on the front-line of the fatherland, the border district military fortresses can bring in to play their strength from the beginning to wear down, wipe out or hold back the enemy, and to create conditions for or coordinate with the main force troops to deal massive annihilating blows to enemy forces, thereby smashing their aggressive designs. Of course, together with the border, coastal and offshore districts, all the rear-base and inland districts must also be built into strong and stable units capable of fighting and achieving victory under any wartime circumstances. The stability and strength of a district military fortress are reflected not only in its military might but also in its economic, political, scientific, technological and cultural strength. In the final analysis, district military fortresses are ceaselessly built and consolidated on the basis of the achievements of the three revolutions on the district level--the production relations revolution, the scientific and technological revolution, and the ideological and cultural revolution. Therefore, the great capabilities to build district military fortresses lie in the capabilities to build stable and strong districts in the fields of political, economic, military, scientific, technological, cultural and social activities. Realities of the building of district military fortresses over the past few years in light of the resolutions of the fourth and fifth party congresses have affirmed this fact. First of all, we must speak of our great capabilities to build economically stable and strong districts. A strong economy is the basis for building strong national defense. Economically, districts can be built into an agroindustrial, an agricultural-forestry-industrial or an agricultural-fishery-industrial structure. Agriculture was and still is the key production sector occupying the foremost position in the districts' economy. In 1982, exploiting favorable weather conditions and creatively implementing the new positions and policies concerning agricultural management, nearly 50 districts throughout the country carried out production

work well under different economic structure and in different areas. Typical of these districts were Dong Hung and Tien Hai in Thai Binh Province, Tho Xuan in Thanh Hoa Province, Dien Ban in Quang Nam-Danang, Krong Pach in Dac Lac, Long Phu in Hau Giang, Phu Tan in An Giang Province, and the 11st Precinct in Ho Chi Minh City. Precincts and districts excelling in production work have been reported in almost all provinces and cities. In the coastal region of Central Vietnam, despite the large population, the scarcity of land, the aridity of the soil and the frequent natural disasters, rice yields in many districts have substantially increased during the past few years and top national pacesetters in crop yields have been reported. Dien Ban District has achieved more than 10 metric tons of paddy per hectare for 4 years in a row; in 1982, it produced 11 metric tons of paddy per hectare. In the same year, Hai Hau, Xuan Thuy, Nghia Hung, Nam Ninh and Duy Tien districts in Ha Nam Ninh Province achieved 6.4-8.3 metric tons per hectare. Even the mountain districts in the northern border region, despite having to cope daily with the schemes and acts of sabotage of the reactionaries among the Chinese authorities, have made progress in production, social welfare, national defense and security. These figures have shown the fine prospects of the decision to use the district as the level on which to carry out the division of labor; reorganize production; satisfactorily utilize the work force, land, forests and the sea; carry out intensive and specialized cultivation; and increase production efficiency. With the initial achievements in stepping up agricultural production, many districts are now capable of not only meeting their own demands for food but also building grain reserves and making contributions to the provinces, thereby creating the necessary material conditions for developing crop planting and livestock raising, expanding trades, shaping up the agroindustrial structure, building the armed forces, consolidating national defense, maintaining local security and promoting combat readiness.

In many districts, economic work and national defense activities have been combined ever more effectively. Economic and cultural projects have been built and developed in such a way as to meet the demands of both production and combat duties of the localities. Production has been coordinated with the development of national defense projects, the building of local combat positions and the planning of wartime economic mobilization, including the mobilization of manpower, grain and foodstuffs and means of production to support combat activities at the district level. Organizational preparations have been made to shift the localities from their peacetime stance into a wartime posture when necessary and plans have been formulated to reorganize the local production and life in case of hostilities, thereby ensuring that the districts can simultaneously fight and produce even during wartime. Although these efforts have only brought about initial results in a number of districts and although many problems remain to be resolved, the achievements recorded thus far have confirmed the correctness of our line and policies and have demonstrated our great capabilities to promote production, develop the economy and combine economic work with national defense efforts at the district level to build the districts into military fortresses for national defense. Of course, to translate these capabilities into widespread realities in all the districts of the country, we still have to carry out many important tasks.

We must improve the formation of projects and enhance planning work to fully exploit all the latent economic potentials of the districts. We must reorganize the productive forces of the districts and basic units, build the material and technical bases at the district level, ensure a harmonious coordination between economic work and national defense efforts in the districts, train a contingent of economic, scientific, technical and military cadres as well as cadres of other sectors for the districts, and so forth. Military work is the factor which reflects most directly and most forcefully the strength of a district military fortress. Our capabilities to build militarily strong districts have been gradually translated into realities over the past few years. This fact has been reflected in the process of development of the local armed forces, including the strong contingent of local military cadres of the districts, the broad-based effective militia and self-defense forces and the local forces, which are organized in an adequate quantity and which have high fighting quality. It has been shown in the building of the offensive combat positions of the district military fortresses, coupled with the development of appropriate combat plans and tactics to resist aggression as well as to smash all rebellions of the reactionaries. It has been proven by the process and results of the building of the combat guidance and command system from the districts to the villages and hamlets. It has also been demonstrated by the results of the gradual implementation of the plan to arm and militarize the entire people and the giving of general military training to the people, which is aimed at equipping each citizen with a certain amount of military knowledge and fighting skills to effectively attack the enemy.

The gradual translation of the military building capabilities into realities has enabled many districts, especially those on the frontline, to satisfactorily fulfill their military tasks; promptly detect and check the schemes and acts of people attempting to flee to foreign countries by crossing the border or the sea and of scouts and commandos; contribute to defeating the multifaceted war of sabotage of the Chinese expansionists; maintain political security and public order and safety in the localities, at the border and on the sea; and stand ready to defeat the enemy's war of aggression. The efforts made by the districts in all fields, just like the guidance and reinforcement provided by the upper echelons, are a decisive factor. Under the unified leadership and guidance of the party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers and by implementing the system of the party providing leadership, the state administering management and the people exercising mastery, by holding fast to the party's political, economic and military lines and by bringing into full play the strength of the local party members, cadres, armed forces and people, the district party organizations will certainly be able to uphold their leading role in translating their localities' potentials into realities, to build their districts into stable and strong units in all respects and to turn them into strong military fortresses to defend the fatherland.

CSO: 4209/336

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

MAJOR SOCIOECONOMIC TASKS SET FORTH BY POLITICAL BUREAU FOR HANOI

Hanoi HANOI MOI in Vietnamese 19 Feb 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] After setting forth the guideline for and task of building the capital in the 80's, the resolution of the Political Bureau points out: In 1983 and during the 3-year period from 1983 to 1985, the Hanoi Party Organization will have to concentrate its efforts on achieving four socioeconomic targets set forth by the Fifth Party Congress with requirements closely and appropriately related to demands of the real situation.

These four targets are as follows:

1. Meeting the most urgent and vital needs of the people's life, primarily to stabilize the life of cadres, manual and office workers and the armed forces.

Hanoi is a place where over 1 million nonagricultural people are concentrated most of whom are salaried employees and cadres and manual and office workers subordinate to both the central and local levels; at present, the life of these people--especially those belonging to the administrative and occupational sectors--is beset with difficulties. Therefore, stabilizing life and satisfying the needs for grain, food products, clothing, schooling, medical treatment, housing, traveling and children's care as well as other essential consumption needs is a difficult, complex and yet urgent problem because it has a political, ideological and social significance and also an effect on the overall situation in the country. An impending task for Hanoi together with the ministries, sectors and localities concerned is to seek by all means to ensure a steady supply of nine categories of goods according to the specified quantity and quality and at the scheduled time. Concerning grain in particular, beside stepping up agricultural production in the rural areas of the city and striving to ultimately meet most of the city's need for grain as indicated in the long-term guidelines, it is necessary to take the most energetic measures to make sure that the city received supplies according to plan and, at the same time, to build up a grain reserve. The city will be authorized by the central level to use part of the grain purchased from the suburbs to increase the on-the-spot source of food products instead of having to bring in foodstuffs from other provinces.

To stabilize life, the most basic measure is still to step up production but products and goods must be concentrated in the hand of the state, It is,

therefore, necessary to concentrate forces and to formulate uniform plans for production, purchase, transportation, distribution, etc. Energetic measures must be taken to fight against loss, spoilage, waste, underhand dealings and other negative manifestations in the distribution and circulation process and to ensure that staple goods reach the consumers in the exact quantity, with good quality and by a convenient method.

As to the question of income, apart from the subsidies granted by the state to manual and office workers serving in the administration and occupational sectors and in the armed forces, production and business units must correctly implement the wage and reward policy to rationally increase the income of cadres and manual and office workers. Organizing, guiding and helping the families of manual and office workers carry out sideline production and stepping up production by small industry and handicrafts cooperatives and production teams in city streets is also an important measure aimed at creating more jobs for the people and simultaneously increasing their own income and the society's wealth.

It is necessary that cadres and the people in the capital should clearly understand the difficulties currently confronting our national economy, be clearly aware of the efforts made by the party and state and decide to live economically and simply through their own labor. Everyone should display a high sense of responsibility, implement all policies correctly and try to intensify production; if they do so, conditions will be created to stabilize and gradually improve the common standard of living. If one acts contrary to these policies only for the sake of individual interests or for the parochial ones of some groups--which will enable negative manifestations to disrupt the socialist order in various fields--, it will be more difficult to resolve problems related to livelihood.

2. Continuing to build material-technical bases of socialism.

Under the influence of a protracted war and due to a failure to make forecasts compatible with the formulated projects and also to a lack of experience in urban development and management, the socialist material-technical bases--though having been built up in Hanoi for nearly 30 years--have been developed slowly and located in a scattered and unproportionate fashion; in particular, the infrastructure and public utility works have proven too small, insufficient and backward in comparison with the tasks to be done and with the manifold increase in the population ever since the liberation of the capital city. This situation has greatly hampered the development of production capacities as well as the possibility of promoting life. For this reason, the city is being faced with an acute demand for construction of material-technical bases. In addition to the need to continue to invest in the construction of material-technical bases essential to the creation of a rational agroindustrial structure in the city area according to the long-term plan, special attention must be paid to reforming and building the infrastructure, houses and other public utility works; to transforming urgently the electric power, water supply and drainage networks as well as the dung and garbage treatment system; to building the communication network; to expanding the telephonic network and to the construction of additional hospitals, hotels and so forth. It is necessary to provide

more material bases for the educational, cultural and physical education and sports sectors and, at the same time, to use fully the existing installations including meeting halls belonging to organs and enterprises in order to promote the cultural and intellectual activities of the laboring people.

To carry out the above-mentioned tasks, it is necessary to determine clearly the priority of transformation and new-construction projects, to formulate homogeneous construction plans, to concentrate on completing each work and to quickly put it into use. Along with the investments made by the state, the city must mobilize the additional forces or organs, enterprises, cooperatives and people and make them work together.

3. Continuing the socialist transformation.

Though Hanoi has spent a long time undergoing socialist transformation and construction, our entire country is still being in the initial stage of the transition to socialism so that the struggle between the two roads is still going on. Moreover, the enemy has been waging a manifold destructive war against our country during which Hanoi is a key area at which they are leveling their spearhead. It follows that the struggle between the two roads is very fierce and complex even in the economic, ideological and cultural fields.

In the economic field, it is now urgent to reestablish the socialist order quickly in the distribution and circulation sectors to positively contribute to stabilizing and managing the market. Firstly, it is necessary to reorganize the state economic units' activities, to strengthen the socialist accounting and business system and to firmly oppose negative manifestations in production and business which disrupt the market. It is especially necessary to tightly manage state products and goods and to check underhand dealings and the theft and surreptitious introduction of these goods into the "free" market. It is necessary to strengthen the forces, expand the scope of activity and heighten the servicing quality of the socialist commercial sector in both the tasks of circulating goods and carrying out servicing activities. A resolute struggle must be waged against persons engaged in speculation, smuggling, counterfeiting and illegal business and action must be taken to deal severely according to law with ringleaders of monopolization, market disruption and economic sabotage. Firm measures must be carried out to eliminate the activities of some bourgeois who have recently emerged to do commercial business.

The socialist production relationships in the collective economic sector must be consolidated and perfected and suitable forms must be employed to continue to transform and rearrange the remaining or newly developed nonsocialist economic components.

Hanoi is a cultural center and a place of rapid exchange and circulation of all information, cultural and ideological currents including the noxious ones of the capitalist ideological system and the neocolonialist cultural vestiges of the former U.S.-puppet regime in South Vietnam. On this front the enemy has also energetically conducted sabotage activities. It is, therefore, necessary to ceaselessly consolidate and expand the socialist battleground from the ideological and cultural points of view, to resolutely check and

eliminate the poisons of a reactionary and depraved culture and of superstitions and to build and preserve the wholesome and civilized socialist life style of the capital people. The city must join forces with the centrally run cultural sectors to care for, organize and build the cultural and intellectual life in the capital and these activities must be managed closely in order to heighten their quality, serve the right goals and promptly check all unwholesome tendencies to promote purely commercial objectives.

4. Strengthening national defense and security.

Simultaneously with taking care of the people's life, maintaining public order and security is a very important task in the capital which is aimed at ensuring the daily life of the people. With its position as a leading political center, Hanoi must firmly maintain political security and order and social security under all circumstances, display the highest vigilance and intensify the struggle against the manifold war of destruction of the enemy, especially against spies and the psychological warfare. There must be a vigorous change in social order and security and also a determination to reduce the number of criminal infractions of the law, to try criminal cases quickly and according to law and to ensure the execution of sentences. Traffic order and order at public places must be reorganized.

In order to carry out the above-mentioned tasks,--beside strengthening the sense of responsibility of the functional organs and improving their professional skills--, it is necessary to vigorously develop the role of the masses, basic organizations and administration at the ward level and to launch a broad mass movement for maintaining the fatherland's security in constant coordination and synchronization with the responsible forces and the masses' strength so as to create a strong spirit of struggle against all negative manifestations and to detect and effectively stop criminals, hooligans, speculators, smugglers and those who disrupt public order and security.

In the field of national defense, Hanoi is required to build a standing army and the militia, self-defense and reserve forces which must undergo training and stand ready to fight effectively under all circumstances. Generally speaking the city's armed forces including the army and public security forces must be constantly consolidated and strengthened and be really honest, stable and powerful. A policy must be applied and measures taken to ensure the livelihood of the male and female members of these forces.

As the guidelines for the entire country's efforts, the four socioeconomic targets set forth by the Fifth Party Congress have been further specified for the period from now to 1985 by the resolution of the Third Plenum of the Party Central Committee. The Political Bureau resolution on the capital's tasks has now indicated more clearly that these targets must be implemented in strict accordance with the characteristics and requirements of our Hanoi City. It is necessary for all echelons and sectors in the capital to understand the above-mentioned resolutions thoroughly and to focus all their strength and intellect on the achievement and materialization of these four targets in their respective areas and scopes of action through the implementation of specific plans and measures and with the determination to win success.

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

REGULATION ON SHIPPING, RECEIVING, TRANSPORTATION OF GRAIN

Hanoi LUONG THUC in Vietnamese 5, 15 Apr 82

[5 Apr 82 p 6]

[Regulation issued by the Ministry of Food: "Temporary Regulation on Shipping, Receiving and Transportation of Grain in Southern Provinces South of Lam Dong, Thuan Hai. Issued in Accordance with Decision No. 363-QD of 1 December 1981 by the Ministry of Food"]

[Text] To help make the shipping, receiving and transportation of grain appropriate and compatible to the situation of the southern provinces, and in accordance with the State and ministerial laws, regulations and procedures, the Ministry temporarily decides that the following procedures be applicable for the southern provinces:

A. Contract on Purchasing, Selling and Transportation

1. All shipping, receiving and transportation of grain between general corporations, bureaus, services and food corporations must be performed under contract. The basis for a contract is the annual, quarterly, monthly or unexpected grain distribution programs implemented by the Ministry of Food.

The following specifications must be clearly stated in every contract: name of the product, quantity, category, quality, required packaging type, price, means of transportation, destination and delivery date, payment method, and measures against the party who fails to honor the contract.

2. The purchaser must sign the contract at the seller's place. For regular quarterly distribution programs, the contract must be signed 10 days ahead of its execution. For urgent and unexpected distribution programs, the transaction may take place first and the contract signed immediately afterward.

B. Shipping, Receiving and Transportation

3. The shipping and receiving of grain between the seller and the purchase, and between the food sector and the carrier, must be carefully verified. The responsibility of each party in this matter must be specifically defined.

4. To reduce spoilage and abusive use of transportation, the following basic standards must be respected:

	Paddy	Rice
Humidity	Not to exceed 15%	Not to exceed 14%
Impurities	Not to exceed 1%	Not to exceed .2%

In case the seller lacks proper means to make his grain meet the required standard, he can, by a mutual agreement with the purchaser, ask the latter to remedy the situation; all related expenses are to be borne by the seller.

5. Grain shipped beyond the limit of a province must meet the standard packaging methods. The volume [weight] of grain in a sack must be uniform for each category of sacks (depending on the sizes of sacks, the weight of 50, 70 or 100 kilograms must be uniformly set.)

-Goods must be packed according to their category and quality.

-Sacks must be of superior quality (no hole, no tear, no rot); their tops must be sewn hemp twine in "X" patterns; for sacks of rice of 50 kilograms, 7 "X" are needed; sacks of 70 to 100 kilograms, 8 to 9 "X". As for paddy, sacks of 50 kilograms need 5 "X"; sacks of 70 to 100, 6-7 "X". The two ears of the sacks must be secured with two tight-fitted loops.

The weight of the sacks must be uniformly deducted from the total weight as follows:

Sacks of 50 kilograms	.5 kilogram
- 70 -	.7 kilogram
- 100 -	1 kilogram
- PP category	.2 kilogram

The purchaser must provide the seller with sufficient sacks before the receipt of the merchandise, or ahead of the shipping time for the seller to use them to pack his shipment.

In case of insufficient sacks, the contracting parties must mutually arrange for the grain to be loaded as a loose cargo. In this case, appropriate measures must be taken to prevent loss through negligence in handling the transfer of grain. In the absence of standard sacks, other packing methods can be used upon mutual agreement between the contracting parties.

As for grain to be shipped to A, standard packaging only is allowed, loading as loose cargo or other methods are prohibited.

6. Delivery and Pick Up Points

The purchaser must pick up his order at the seller's main warehouse or at other easily accessible locations. In other words, the seller must transfer his merchandise from shallow water to deep waterpoints, from scattered locations to concentrated ones (with collective warehouses as the first choice). The contracting parties must mutually agree on points of delivery and pick-up which are to be specified in the sales and transportation contract.

In case the seller cannot assemble enough merchandise to transfer to a designated location and requests the purchaser to pick up the cargo at a farther location, and if the purchaser accept it, the seller must reimburse him of all resultant costs.

7. The ratio for transportation loss allowances is temporarily fixed as follows:

	Transportation by water way	Transportation by truck or train
Packaged rice	Not to exceed .7%	Not to exceed .5%
Packaged paddy	Not to exceed 1.2%	Not to exceed 1%

Exceptionally, when there is a shortage of sacks, the following applies:

For grain shipped as loose cargo	Not to exceed 1.5%	Not to exceed 1.2%
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As for shipment by water way, if because of delay in loading-unloading of 5 days or more beyond the scheduled dateline, especially in dry season when the percentage of humidity may decrease and make the grain dryer, the shrinkage margin allowed may be increased for each specific case and upon concurrent certification from the seller and from the carrier.

The above margin allowances apply for each shipment and kind of transportation; the unused portion of margin allowances for one given shipment cannot be transferred to another.

If grain are delivered at the seller's warehouse, the purchaser must pay the total original weight of the merchandise upon delivery. If grain are delivered to the purchaser's warehouse, the latter has to pay for the shrinkage margin allowed for transportation; the seller has to settle with the carrier on any shortage beyond the allowable limit.

The responsible carrier must offset any shortage and spoilage of grain that exceed the allowable margin, at the market price of the point of shipment.

These temporary shrinkage margin allowances have been unanimously approved by both the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Communications and Transportation (by its representative in the South)

C. Management and Preservation of Grain

8. Any means of transportation used to ship grain must be clean, equipped with a hold and with appropriate materials to protect the cargo against the rain. Workers responsible of the shipping-receiving must check to be sure that the above requirements are met before any shipment of goods.

The shipping-receiving of goods within an organization or with the communications and transportation sector must be accurately verified and counted; the weighing instruments must be equipped with a proper device to verify their precision. Any excess, shortage or spoilage of goods must be reported in writing to be used as a supporting document at the time of payment.

9. Grains that are stored in warehouses or docks must also be kept out of direct contact with the floor and properly covered against humidity and waste. During the loading-unloading of goods, workers for the receiving unit must be detailed to glean the grains that spill out on the carrier and around the shipping and receiving areas.

10. Regularly seek the guidance and assistance of the local Party's committees, administrative authorities and people's organizations; use the masses to mobilize the mass organization to protect the commodities being shipped; frequently and tightly coordinate efforts with the communications and transportation sector, the security organizations, and the armed forces to organize a protection network along the transportation route and increase patrols, watches, controls in order to safeguard the means of transportation and their cargo, and prevent any attempts to steal the grain.

D. Settlement and Handling of the Contract

11. The cost of the merchandise and freight are to be settled by the purchaser and seller as follows:

At the end of each quarter, month or after a contract has been honored, both contracting parties must settle the pending contract before engaging in new ones. Experiences gained from past transactions must be used to better the execution of new contracts.

12. A breach of contract involving loss, waste, spoilage of grain, misuse of labor or means of transportation must be recorded by the contracting party at the location where the breach takes place to be settled later.

13. Units or individuals whose initiative help speeding the shipping-receiving, transportation, loading-unloading, increase efficiency, reduce cost of transportation and handling, and assure good protection of grain will be properly rewarded. In case norms are set, the reward or punishment will be based on those norms.

Collectivities and individuals who diligently perform their duties, and thus help honor the terms of the contract and fulfill the plans to improve distribution and transportation of grain, will also receive monetary rewards as set forth by the Ministry.

Units and individuals who lack in responsibility, fail to observe the terms of the contract and the current procedures, thus cause prejudice to the State's wealth and endanger the sector's plans aiming at improving the distribution and transportation of grain, will be severely disciplined according to the State's regulations concerning material responsibility on such situations.

14. This Regulation will be effective upon the signature of the Decision.

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CSO: 4209/308

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES IN FIRST HALF OF 1982 REPORTED

Hanoi LUONG THUC in Vietnamese 5 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by Bui Binh Luan, Inspection Committee, Ministry of Food: "Inspection Activities to Eliminate Negativism in First 6 Months of the Year"]

[Text] In the first 6 months of the year, all 3 inspection forces of the sector inspected 919 cases, focusing on plan fulfillment, and economic and financial aspects of technical components. They have solved 80 percent of complaints and denunciations filed by cadres and the people, and held meetings to discuss compliance with regulations on solving complaints and denunciations. During that time, these forces have uncovered 6,222 violations, including theft, lack of responsibility, and violations of grain distribution procedures and principles. They have prosecuted 220 persons--applying administrative and economic measures to 201 persons, and judicial measures to 19 persons--and recovered 824 tons of grain and 1,792,000 dong in cash for the state. They have also been successful in thwarting and overcoming negative manifestations in key management components of the sector, and carrying out many measures designed to reorganize, strengthen, and improve economic management. Moreover, inspection forces have guided the inspection and control of grain distribution and circulation on a large-scale basis, pursuant to Directive 08 of the ministry, and Official Letter 547 of the State Inspection Commission; and have achieved good preliminary results in Ho Chi Minh City, and Long An, Dong Nai, Nghia Binh, Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Quang Ninh Provinces, etc. Vinh Phu, Ha Bac, and other provinces have reviewed the early stages of this control campaign.

In light of results in the first 6 months of the year, the sector has put off part of the inspection task to the second half of the year, in accordance with the 1982 inspection goals, defined at the beginning of the year, with the focus on controlling plans, inspecting grain acquisition, distribution and use, and controlling compliance with regulations on handling complaints and denunciations, thus contributing to properly fulfilling the sector's political task.

9213

CSO: 4209/306

AGRICULTURE

STRONGER MEASURES TO FIGHT GRAIN MISUSE URGED

Hanoi LUONG THUC in Vietnamese 5 Oct 82 p 1

[Editorial: "Step Up Even More the Struggle Against Negativism"]

[Text] In the past 2 years, carrying out Directive 108 of the party Central Committee Secretariat and Directive 327-LT/79 of the party affairs committee in the Ministry of Food, on accelerating the struggle against negativism, we have conducted this struggle in many fields, focusing on key areas and units. Committee 79 in provinces, cities, and sectors concerned, have solicitously helped us in our struggle to protect and store grain and other state property. Inspection outfits have strengthened their activities, diligently contributing to thwarting and correcting management flaws, and promptly prosecuting violations of property, inside and outside the sector. Quite a few units in our sector have achieved results in managing economic and financial affairs, curbing negative phenomena, gradually cleaning their Augean stables, and raising the sense of responsibility and revolutionary vigilance of cadres, workers and civil servants.

However, a critical assessment shows that, during that time, the struggle against negativism within the sector has recorded neither fundamental and strong changes nor solid results. Negative phenomena has tended to recur in units not eager to devote regular attention to the struggle, and keep plugging along. Theft, embezzlement, and misuse of grain, money, containers, and commodities, continue to mar many places and components of the system, especially the ones dealing with grain transportation. A number of places have not closely associated the struggle against negativism with the effort to raise vigilance and combat enemy sabotage activities.

This situation cries out for immediate correction. One of the flaws is that various echelons and unit chiefs at the basic level, in guiding subordinates to carry out state plans properly, have not focused adequate resolve and responsibility on the struggle against negativism. Party and mass organizations committee echelons within the sector have not fully grasped the need for banding together with leading cadres to launch a mass movement against negativism. In many places, the effort to educate and organize cadres, and enhance the latter's management capabilities through training has not received due attention. To thwart negative activities, the sector must solve a major problem--that of examining, proposing, updating and

changing economic-financial principles and procedures, and ameliorating production and business, in line with new policies on improving distribution and circulation. In the face of the present situation, our sector must continue to accelerate even more the struggle against negativism--an urgent and very important task. All units in the sector must now make it clear that, unless negativism is fought with more consistency and effectiveness, they cannot fulfill state plans with large-scale economic success. Why? Because, failing that, negative phenomena will erode and weaken ideological and organizational bases, destroy the management structure, and cause heavy damage to state property. Party committee echelons and unit chiefs in the sector must guide directly the struggle against negativism with high determination, and a high sense of responsibility, so as to cause the whole sector to turn over a new leaf, and to struggle with great efficiency.

Recently, Committee 79 in the ministry sent an official letter to various units in the sector, reminding them of their immediate tasks in the struggle. It is important fully to understand the common goals of the struggle against negativism--continuing to improve distribution and circulation; gradually striking a grain balance between localities and the entire nation, pursuant to Directive 120 of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, and to Resolution 99 of the Council of Ministers; strengthening management and protection of grain, properties and capital, in support for production and the people's livelihood; and contributing to reestablishing order in the grain market. The struggle must continue to focus on key areas and activities of the sector.

The struggle against negativism will achieve better results if various units in the sector actively reconsider their management patterns, switching from rigid bureaucratism to a business formula based upon economic accounting; improve business methods; reorganize work styles, production, and business procedures; attach attention to strengthening material bases of all components; and promptly and strictly address administrative and judicial problems.... Besides, all units in the sector must put emphasis on strengthening and purifying themselves, on promoting meritorious people, and on removing backward and deviant ones from positions of control, and those connected with money and goods. All units must pay attention to improving themselves along the lines of the socialist business formula. They must regularly teach members to increase their sense of responsibility and revolutionary vigilance, to respect the hierarchy and discipline, and valiantly to protect public property and combat negativism. At the same time, they must improve the cadres' political knowledge and professional capabilities.

In the struggle against negativism, we must pay important attention to fostering the masses' right to collective mastery, to launching and maintaining a mass movement at all cost, and to inducing the masses to participate in great numbers in the struggle, in association with strengthening the organization and activities of inspection forces. We must coordinate very closely with organs in charge of proletarian dictatorship, with localities, and with the communications and transportation sector, so that they will carry out unfaltering measures to protect grain and goods

at delivery, reception and shipping points in storehouses, ports and major communications lines. Committee 79 in various units must strengthen and increase their activities. Experiences drawn from the struggle against negativism in the past 2 years must be disseminated promptly, and the present goals of the struggle must be concretely specified in each unit. Units and individuals must be appropriately commended, and rewarded, for protecting public property, and properly carrying out their work. We must promptly and strictly expose and address violations, and ask judicial organs to punish severely those violators and saboteurs who have caused heavy damage to state property.

Administrative and trade union officials in each unit must pay more attention to the livelihood of cadres, workers and civil servants, enabling them to decrease difficulties, to work and produce with confidence and enthusiasm, to fulfill all their obligations in an outstanding manner, and to contribute to obviating negative phenomena.

The struggle against negativism is a big, complex and urgent task. To attain predicted results, various echelons and units in the entire sector must guide and carry out this struggle with strictness, regularity and continuity, through dynamic and resolute measures, and with the participation of numerous men and women in the sector.

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CSO: 4209/306

AGRICULTURE

CONCENTRATED INVESTMENTS IN HIGH YIELD RICE AREAS SET UP

Hanoi LUONG THUC in Vietnamese 5 Aug 82 pp 4, 5

[Article by Ha Nang: "Concentrate Direct Investment on High Yield Rice Areas"]

[Text] Grain is a long-term strategic problem that exerts an especially important impact on the task of socialist industrialization, consolidating national defense, and ensuring the people's livelihood. At present, this problem confronts us with big difficulties, particularly in striking a balance between grain supply and demand in the state sector in the north--a situation which only the most energetic measures can solve.

In light of the Resolution of the 5th Party Congress, we must carry out measures which have decisive import--concentrating forces on developing agriculture, gradually bringing it into large-scale socialist production, and striving to achieve each year, from 1981 through 1985, an average yield of 17 million tons of grain (converted to paddy equivalent), of which an average 3.5 million tons are purchased each year by the state.

To attain this goal important extremely, we must apply a uniform plan of action, encompassing production, purchases, transportation, storage, processing, distribution and consumption, while fully developing both rice and subsidiary food crops. As far as rice is concerned, in addition to land reclamation to expand cultivation areas, the main thrust is to step up intensive farming and multicropping, raise productivity, and set up high-yield rice areas apt to produce large quantities of grain and goods.

1. Concentrated and direct investment in high-yield rice areas is a fundamental measures designed to solve the grain problem in a sound manner.

The policy of concentrated investment in high-yield rice areas and crops originated in the following characteristics and conditions:

--Grain production in many areas and crops still is unstable, due to dependence on natural conditions. Investment efficiency in these areas and crops will be considerably limited.

--During the 5 years, from 1981 through 1985, our party and state are concentrating forces to strongly develop agriculture, considered the No one battleground; but, since our investment capabilities in agriculture are limited, we cannot distribute them widely and evenly, instead, we must concentrate them on areas which produce large quantities of grain and goods. Many areas still produce grain on a self-supply and self-sufficiency basis; as a result, they produce on extra grain or goods at all, or produce them in negligible quantities; worse yet, they even need continued assistance from the central echelon. It is necessary to invest in trouble-ridden grain areas and crops; but since state capabilities are limited, the best way rapidly to increase grain and goods production is to concentrate on key spots, i.e., high-yield rice areas.

Areas and crops listed as high-yield ones must fulfill the following conditions:

--Soil fertility and climate and weather conditions can, in case of appropriate investment, ensure relatively solid and high-yield harvests.

--In grain production, the commodity economy has already developed, or is well on its way to developing.

Concentrated investment in high-yield rice areas and crops pursues the following goals:

First, ensure investment efficiency: Accelerate intensive farming and multicropping, raise rice output, turn out bigger and more solid harvests.

Second, rapidly increase grain and goods production so that the peasants can embark on expanded reproduction and improve their living standards, and the state can purchase more and more grain to meet the ever-increasing requirements of socialist industrialization, of consolidating national defense, and ensuring the existence of those who produce on grain.

Third, on these premises the state can soundly solve the grain problem confronting the entire society, and the state sector, pursuant to the Resolution of the Fifth Party Congress, to Directive 120 of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, and to Resolution 99 of the Council of Ministers.

2. High-yield rice areas and crops in need of concentrated investment. Investment sizes and schedules.

In the provinces of former South Vietnam, investments must concentrate on the Mekong River delta and on the following crops:

--Winter-spring crops: An estimated 300,000 hectares, including 100,000 hectares in An Giang; 70,000 hectares in Dong Thap; 85,000 hectares in Tien Giang; 30,000 hectares in Cuu Long; and 30,000 hectares in Hau Giang.

--Summer-Autumn crops: An estimated 300,000 hectares. Same breakdown as with the winter-spring crops.

--Early 10th-month crops: An estimated 400,000 hectares, including 120,000 hectares in Hau Giang (former Soc Trang, and part of Ke Sach District); 120,000 hectares in Minh Hai (former Bac Lieu, Ca Mau District, and part of Thoi Binh District); 70,000 hectares in Cuu Long (former Tra Vinh); 50,000 hectares in Tien Giang Go Cong East, parts of Go Cong West and Cho Gao District); 50,000 hectares in Long An (Vam Co, Can Cuoc, Can Guioc and Ben Thu); and 40,000 hectares in Kien Giang (on both banks of the river Ca Be, and Vinh Thuan District).

In the central coastal provinces: Concentrated investment in approximately 200,000 hectares of winter-spring, and spring-summer crops, in areas equipped with water storage facilities and capable of high rice output.

In the northern provinces, investments must concentrate on approximately 500,000 hectares of 5th-month-spring crops in the Red River delta, a number of midland districts, and in Thanh Hoa, Nghe Tinh, as well as in areas equipped with water storage facilities and capable of high output.

In light of present state capabilities, the sizes of investment in high-yield rice areas and crops can be suggested as follows:

--Early 10th-month rice crops in the Mekong River delta: If each hectare receives 100 kilos of urea fertilizer and 100 kilos of phosphate fertilizer, the average yield may reach 5 tons or more per hectare, of which the state can purchase an average 1.5 tons.

--Winter-spring crops in the Mekong River delta: If each hectare receives 200 kilos of urea fertilizer, the average yield may reach 5 tons or more per hectare, of which the state can purchase an average 2 tons.

--Summer-autumn crops in the Mekong River delta: If each hectare receives 100 kilos of urea fertilizer and 50 kilos of phosphate fertilizer, the average yield may reach 4 tons or more per hectare, of which the state can purchase an average 1.5 tons.

--Winter-spring and spring-summer crops in the central coastal provinces: If each hectare receives 100 kilos of urea fertilizer and 100 kilos of phosphate fertilizer, the average yield may reach 5 tons or more per hectare, of which the state can purchase an average 1.5 tons.

--5th-month-spring crops in the north: If each hectare receives 100 kilos of urea fertilizer and 50 kilos of phosphate fertilizer, the average yield may reach 4 tons or more per hectare, of which the state can purchase an average 1.5 tons.

Fertilizer, just like oil, gas, and insecticide, must be supplied with promptness, at the right time, and in adequate quantities. In the Mekong River delta especially, due to the nature of the crops, investments must be timed to reflect promptness and precision, in order to make production highly efficient.

--Gas and oil for plowing must be supplied from November through the end of April, since all three crops are planted during this period. Gas and oil are needed especially at the beginning of November to pump water from winter-spring ricefields, and permit early sowing at the end of that month, thus making it possible for farmers to avoid rain while harvesting, and plant the summer-autumn crop early, without being hampered by floods.

--Fertilizer must be ready for use, in December and January for the winter-spring crop; in April and May for the summer-autumn crop; and in April for the early loth-month crop, in time for the first application. Shipments of fertilizer for the latter crop must continue until the end of August.

--Insecticides must be supplied along with gas, oil, and fertilizer, and sprayed on three times to illustrate the spirit that "prevention is better than treatment." The first spraying takes place 5 days after sowing, to resist infestation; the second spraying, when the rice is 1 month old and after additional fertilizer has been applied; and the third spraying, after a new layer of fertilizer has been applied to incite the rice to boot.

3. The most appropriate investment formula is achieved through two-way economic contracts signed with producers. The superiority of two-way economic contracts is reflected in many ways. These contracts enable the state to strengthen its planned action on production, acting as a customer in contact with a producer, and also as a supplier to agriculture of technical equipment, seeds, fertilizer, insecticide, gas, oil, and other production provisions. On this basis, the state can plan grain purchases, and control more and more grain to meet the needs of workers, cadres, and armed forces and urban people. Meanwhile, the rural economy can associate itself directly with socialist agriculture, thus increasing the influence of industry on agricultural production, strengthening the socialist front in rural areas, and eliminating the monopoly of capitalist traders. Stalin pointed out, "The method of signing a great number of contracts makes it easy for individual peasant households to band together, and helps stabilize the reciprocal relationship between the state and peasants, thus consolidating the alliance between urban and rural areas." ("Complete Works," Su That Publishing House, 1965, Volume 11, Page 268).

In high-yield rice areas, the application of two-way economic contracts must proceed as follows:

1. All agricultural supplies invested in high-yield rice areas, including those from the Ministries of Agriculture and Food, must be included in two-way economic contracts, and subject to planning, from the central echelon down to provinces and districts. The Ministry of Food signs contracts with the provincial people's committee chairman, with the participation of grain and agricultural service directors. The provincial people's committee chairman guides sectors and echelons to comply with these contracts. Grain and agricultural services bring agricultural supplies to producers, according to the following procedures: Each sector ships its own supplies to basic installations which, in turn, sign contracts with cooperatives and collectives; the agricultural sector acts

as a primary investor, in line with criteria set by the Ministry of Agriculture, while the grain sector is responsible for additional investments in high-yield rice areas. The grain service is in charge of collecting grain from producers, according to contracts and state-approved rates. Therefore, there will be two agricultural supply funds. The Ministry of Food directly manages the amounts of fertilizer supplied outside the plan, whereas the Ministries of Agriculture and Supply manage the amounts of fertilizer, gas, oil, and insecticide supplied inside the plan, according to criteria, and which are brought to high-yield rice areas at the request of the Ministry of Food.

2. At the basic level, grain purchasing stations and stores sign contracts directly with mass economic organizations (agricultural cooperatives, production collectives, etc.). Households operating independently in some places must be grouped into collectives, each of which comprises a few households living in the same hamlet. These collectives elect management boards to receive supplies for distribution to households, keep tabs on production, and collect agricultural tax and grain for the grain sector, according to two-way contracts.

3. To carry out these contracts properly, purchasing stations must coordinate, with village grain and agricultural sections, under the guidance of village people's committee chairmen, and with the assistance of various sectors in provinces and districts, to launch three inspection drives, according to the following timetable:

--First inspection: Following plowing, tilling, sowing and transplanting, these stations must inspect to see how many hectares have been plowed, and how much fertilizer, gas, oil, and insecticide have been shipped in; so that plans can be made to bring in more agricultural supplies to help peasants care for the rice at this right time.

--Second inspection: When the rice begins to stand erect, and is about to boot, the second inspection must take place to assess the results of contract compliance since sowing and transplanting have been completed, and plans must be drawn up for a prompt supply of fertilizer to incite the rice to boot and grow.

--Third inspection: It must take place when the rice is ripe and ready to be harvested. With the participation of financial and banking sectors--but with the grain and financial sectors playing a key role--this inspection must assess production results (acreage, productivity, volume of production), on which to compute taxes and amounts of grain to be purchased by the state, according to two-way contracts, and what is to be left to each collective, village and hamlet as surplus. At the same time, the people must be consulted about their needs in supplies, building materials, consumer goods, or cash, so that these requisites can be rushed in to allow the state to purchase and barter for grain, and the people to embark on reproduction, and acquire cash and consumer goods. On these

bases, tax rolls and registries--on which purchases, inside and outside the plan, are entered--must be established, and notices on grain purchases and tax collection must be made public.

4. Grain purchases and contract settlement must keep pace with harvesting, in such a way that all grain deliveries are made as soon as harvesting is finished. Collection must occur in one place at a time, from households to collectives, collectives to hamlets, then hamlets to villages. When collection in a given hamlet has been completed, the whole force must concentrate on the next hamlet until the entire village is covered. The same process goes on until all villages and districts in the province have completed the collection task.

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AGRICULTURE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE REVIEWS 1982 RESULTS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 6 Mar 83 pp 1,4

[Unattributed article: "New Elements on the Agricultural Front Applauded: Hai Phong, Provinces of Hau Giang, Nghia Binh, Ha Nam Ninh, Quang Ninh Receive Council of Ministers Award Flags"]

[Text] During the first days of March the Ministry of Agriculture held a recapitulation conference in Hanoi to evaluate the results of and reasons for the victory on the agricultural production front in 1982 and to discuss measures to victoriously fulfill the agricultural production plans for 1983 and succeeding years.

Comrade Vu Dinh Lieu, a member of the VCP Central Committee and Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended the conference and gave a speech.

Implementing the resolution of the Fifth Party Congress on "concentrating on developing the strengths of agriculture, regarding agriculture as a foremost front, and advancing agriculture a step closer toward large-scale socialist production," in 1982 the echelons and sectors, along with the people throughout the nation, competed in production labor, overcame difficulties caused by complicated weather, a shortage of materials, etc., and sought appropriate, dynamic, and creative measures to promote the production of foodstuffs, raw materials for industry, and agricultural products for export. Therefore, in 1982 the country as a whole produced 16.59 million tons of grain in terms of paddy, which amounted to nearly 600,000 tons more than the annual plan and was an increase of more than 1.5 million tons over 1981. That is the highest level ever. Thanks to intensive cultivation and the rapid introduction of technical advance to the fields, all three seasons there were large, uniform harvests. The nation's total rice output amounted to 14.17 million tons, 1.17 million tons more than the plan norm and an increase of 1.75 million tons over 1981. That was a rather high rate of increase in the history of wet rice cultivation in Vietnam.

Many New Models in Intensive Cultivation and Increasing Crop Yields

In 1982 there appeared many new elements in agriculture and many new models in intensive cultivation and increasing crop yields in all localities and in

the different cultivation areas which created rather solid uniformity. Some localities in the central coastal area have distinctive cultivation conditions but attained yields of more than 10 tons per hectare in all three rice seasons. Dai Loc District in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province planted an area of 3,400 hectares all three seasons and attained a yield of 15.2 tons (the Dai Phuoc cooperative had a yield of 22 tons). Dien Ban District had a yield of 11.9 tons, An Nhon (Nghia Binh) had a yield of more than 10 tons, and many cooperatives in Thua Hai attained 10 to 13 tons per hectare, etc. Hai Hau District in Ha Nam Ninh District attained an annual rice yield of 82.55 quintals and no cooperative in the district attained a yield of under 60 quintals per hectare. The Xuan Tien cooperative in Ha Nam Ninh and the Nguyen Xa cooperative in Thai Binh attained an annual rice yield of 10.5 to 11 tons per hectare. Hong Ngu District in Dong Thap Province attained a yield of 65 quintals during the winter-spring rice season. The municipality of Hai Phong, which has much acidic, saline land along the coast, during the 1982 10th month season attained the highest average yield in the nation -- 32.6 quintals -- and increased its annual rice yield to 6.1 tons, the third highest yield, after Thai Binh and Hai Hung.

Creating High-Yield Rice Areas is in the Right Direction

Creating and expanding high-yield base areas is a new method that is in the right direction and is very important. All localities have implemented that method. The southern provinces have created 500,000 hectares of high-yield summer-fall and 10th month rice land (accounting for 19 percent of the total rice area in the region) which produce an output of more than 2 million tons (equal to 34.5 percent of the regional output). Thanks to the rapid increase in the total rice output, in 1982 the grain mobilization level reached nearly 3 million tons.

The year 1982 was also a year in which animal husbandry developed rather comprehensively and stably. Although the number of hogs did not attain the plan norm, it was the largest ever: 10,784,000. The weight of hogs increased rapidly and the market weight was greater than in previous years because of a change in the structure of hog breeds and attention to improving the quality and efficiency of animal husbandry. There were 2,445,000 water buffaloes in the country, .6 percent more than called for by the plan norm. There were 1,944,000 cattle, 9.8 more than the plan. Poultry increased by 10.5 percent over 1981 and there were 16 million ducks, an increase of 25 percent over the previous year.

However, subsidiary food crops declined with regard to area, yield, and output. In 1982 the output of subsidiary food crops was 300,000 tons less than the plan norm. A number of localities and areas had not yet entered deeply into intensive cultivation and increasing crop yields and their intensive cultivation level was generally low, so they could not fully exploit the potential of their land, labor, and material-technical bases, or the local cultivation and vocational experiences. Grain production was good, but animal husbandry and industrial crops developed slowly. In agricultural production, the collective production bases and the peasants did well and had high economic effectiveness, but the state bases had not yet fulfilled the requirement of socialist commercial accounting. Agricultural output was good but in processing, storage, and circulation there were still many problems, which created an unstable psychological attitude on the part of producers.

Many Lively Experience Lessons

From a year of agricultural production, the conference learned many lively experience lessons, such as the intensive rice cultivation experiences of Hai Hau District in Ha Nam Ninh and Dai Loc District in Quang Nam-Da Nang; the experiences of Tien Giang Province in in-depth investment in the high-yield rice area; the experiences of An Giang Province in increasing the number of growing seasons and in intensively cultivating rice; Nghe Tinh's experiences in changing the growing seasons, avoiding severe weather, and ensuring high rice productivity and output; Ho Chi Minh City's experiences in resolving the green vegetable and foodstuffs problems; Vinh Phu's experiences in encouraging collectives and the people to plant groundcover on denuded hillsides and in developing the hillside garden economy; the experiences of Dong Nai and Ha Bac in creating concentrated areas which specialize in the cultivation of soybeans on two-crop rice fields; Long An's experiences in using agricultural scientific-technical cadres in the production bases to create many products for society; the experiences of Quynh Phu District (Thai Binh Province) in combining the district's material-technical bases with the production bases to create the close industrial-agricultural relationship of the agricultural machinery stations, etc.

On the basis of the experience lessons and creative working methods in 1982, the agricultural sector discussed specific measures, and with a spirit of self-reliance all localities and base-level units are striving to attain in 1983 17 million tons of grain in paddy equivalent, including 2.7 million tons of subsidiary food crops (in paddy equivalent), in order to create the material preconditions for the attainment of 19 to 20 million tons of grain in 1984-1985. The agricultural sector is not subjective and self-satisfied, clearly realizes the remaining deficiencies, and is endeavoring to resolve the imbalances between rice and subsidiary food crops, among grain crops, industrial crops, and export crops, and between cultivation and animal husbandry. In the immediate future, it will concentrate on fulfilling the plan norms regarding grain by means of practicing intensive cultivation to increase crop yields and expanding the rice and subsidiary food crop areas by increasing the number of growing seasons, especially in the Mekong Delta and in the areas which still grow only one rice crop; creating and intensively cultivating 1.88 million hectares of high-yield rice land in all localities in order to ensure the attaining of an average yield of 37.5 quintals per hectare per season; completing the planning of production according to echelon and organizing a rational production structure in each province, district, and area; carrying out agricultural zoning and drafting district development plans; expanding the form of economic alliances between the production units and the localities; perfecting and improving the structure of product contracting-out in agriculture, etc.

Localities and Units Rewarded and Congratulated

In 1982 Hai Phong and the provinces of Quang Ninh, Ha Nam Ninh, Nghia Binh, and Hau Giang achieved accomplishments in agriculture and were awarded circulating emulation flags by the Council of Ministers. The provinces of Hai Hung, Cao Bang, Ha Bac, Bac Thai, Nghe Tinh, Binh Tri Thien, Lam Dong, An Giang, and Quang Nam-Da Nang, and five units of the Ministry of Agriculture -- the

Vegetation Protection Department, the Coffee-Cacao Corporation, the Central Hog and Industrial Hog Corporation, the Boi River Rice and Kaoliang Seedstock Research Center, and the Accounting-Financial Department -- were awarded letters of commendation by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Many provinces, municipalities, and directly dependent units were awarded flags and letters of commendation by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE GRAIN INSPECTION REVIEWED

Hanoi LUONG THUC in Vietnamese 5 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by Tien Thinh, Vietnam Grain Trade Union: "The Grain Inspection Task"]

[Text] Proper inspection of grain management and consumption, to combat negativism, aims not only at solving existing negative manifestations which cause damage to state property and goods, but also at an important activity--bringing grain management, distribution and consumption to perfection, and preventing and curbing violations.

For grain inspection to achieve results, the entire inspection force must be organized into an activist nucleus, with the participation of many sectors, under the leadership of committee echelons and the sponsorship of state inspection organs.

Comprehensive inspection and control must rely on documentary and accounting evidence, and also on the people's and worker's inspection forces in the regular supervision of the application of managerial and economic procedures, regulations and principles. At the same time, higher technical echelons must constantly control and guide lower ones as they do their task. A regular task of basic installations is to use the struggle against negative manifestations as a stepping stone for building a close-knit economic and financial management pattern.

Grain inspection experiences drawn by the State Inspection Commission and the Ministry of Food from the cluster of provinces of Hai Hung, Vinh Phu, and Thai Binh and Ho Chi Minh City, and from the 1980-81 campaign against negativism in the Nam Bo Delta provinces, have clearly shown that mistakes, shortcomings, negative manifestations, and damages to state property were all fewer in localities where the fight against negativism was waged regularly and continuously. For instance, in the south alone, the Can Tho City grain bureau (Hau Giang Province) has recovered over 5 tons of grain per month, just by checking up on grain consumption at 10 out of 50 grain-consuming organs. In 1979-80, the Chau Thanh grain bureau (Dong Nai Province) was considered a weak one, because there was waste and loss amounting to 120 tons of grain, and because it even purchased several hundred tons of subsidiary food without justification. But in 1981, the grain bureau

perfected its organization, improved management, strengthened inspection, classified cadres and personnel into groups for security purposes, and strictly controlled grain consumption. As a result, it has overfulfilled its plans, prevented misuse and theft of goods, and emerged as a moderately good bureau of the Dong Nai grain service. In 1980-81, through grain inspection the Ben Tre grain service detected 2,106 cases of embezzlement, bribery and irresponsible dealings that caused damage to state property totaling 560,623 dong. This included a loss of 55,514 kilos of grain per month, due to distribution of grain to 4,865 ineligible or nonexistent persons. In 1981, due to strengthened grain inspection, the Ho Chi Minh City grain service registered a drop of 27 percent in the number of negative cases, and a drop of over 50 percent in grain loss. Through uninterrupted inspection, and with the activist participation of workers' and professional inspection forces, grain bureaus in Cu Chi, Tan Binh, Precinct 5, Go Vap etc., have detected and solved many cases. In 1981, the Cu Chi grain bureau lost just 1.2 percent of grain, compared with 3.5 percent for the previous year. The Tan Binh grain bureau lost 21,612 kilos of grain in 1980; in 1981, however, the loss was reduced by 13,293 kilos.

The present grain situation is still marred by many difficulties, making it easy for negative manifestations to appear, and giving rise to more sophisticated tricks aimed at plundering state property. Recently, taking advantage of the situation, bad elements bought off a number of backward cadres and conspired with them to obtain official papers for acquiring grain. Goods and grain were sold by one state organ to another, or by a number of influential, but deviant officials to crooked merchants, who eventually availed themselves of state storehouses, means, and organ personnel to resell their merchandise....That is why, in addition to strengthening management, and strictly carrying out management policies, procedures, and regulations, we must also do the grain inspection task properly, focusing on all components, from acquisition, transportation, and storage to milling, processing, distribution, and use. Errors and flaws in grain management, uncovered through regular inspection and control, must be addressed, and measures must be taken promptly to prosecute violations, and recover lost goods and property. At the same time, management measures must be strengthened to prevent negative manifestations.

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UNFAIR BARTER FOR PADDY REPORTED

Hanoi LUONG THUC in Vietnamese 15 Aug 82 p 8

[Article by "The Traveler": "On Bartering Goods for Paddy"]

[Text] According to Huong Phuc (in the Ha Son Binh newspaper, dated 31 July 1982) on 1 July 1982 the grain store bartered cloth for paddy in the Got Market area (Chuong My District, Ha Son Binh). The primary purpose was to barter cloth for surplus paddy owned by rural cooperative members. In fact, the people could barter for considerably less than private traders did. Crooked merchants dumped money in the market to buy paddy for subsequent barter for cloth at the grain storehouse, thus causing paddy prices to shoot up. In the morning, paddy sold 80 dong per 10 kilos; at noon, the price rose to 90,97, then 100 dong. A merchant, who in no way was connected with agricultural production, bought 5 quintals of paddy and traded it for 100 meters of cloth. Most cloth vendors in Got Market have each bartered a minimum of 3 quintals of paddy for state cloth. Also according to Huong Phuc, private traders frantically competed with peasants to barter paddy for cloth because the price of 1 meter of printed fine cloth in the market was from 65 to 70 dong, while it cost them only from 45 to 50 dong to buy 5 kilos of paddy to barter for 1 meter of cloth at the store. And each meter of cloth bartered could easily earn them from 20 to 25 dong! Well-to-do people have spent much money buying paddy for barter, for speculation purposes. Before Tet, they could make a big profit reselling the cloth, or using it to make children's garments for retail. Thus, from speculating on grain they switched to speculating on other kinds of merchandise...

According to "The Traveler," the above situation exists, not only at the Got market, but also in a number of places, and involves not only cloth, but also nitrate fertilizer and a number of other commodities. The purchasing and bartering process continues. We must pay attention to bartering supplies and goods in the most careful way, by acquiring grain from rural cooperative members at agreed upon prices in exchange for goods, and bringing these goods to the producing peasants--and absolutely not through the intermediation of crooked merchants--thus directly serving production requirements and the peasants' livelihood.

Many places have bartered goods for paddy owned by rural cooperative members through agricultural cooperatives and village marketing cooperatives, or by bringing goods into the homes of rural cooperative members for them to choose from, and exchange their paddy for merchandises at agreed upon terms. At the same time, radical market management steps have been taken to ensure the interests of both the state and the cooperatives and their rural members. It is advisable to adopt these measures, isn't it?

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